Men's volleyball win, take OCAA gold

The Niagara Knights celebrate winning the Ontario College Athletic Association championship in North York. The team is playing at the nationals in British Columbia.

Photo by Joël D. Herrington

By JOËL D. HERRINGTON
Staff Writer

The Niagara Knights are the best men's volleyball team in Ontario.

They took home their second Ontario Colleges Athletic Association (OCAA) Championship, in as many years, Feb. 24, at Seneca College in North York, Ont.

The OCAA tournament pitted the province's eight best teams in a three-day festival of impeccable volleyball. Niagara came into the provincials seeded No. 1, with a historical 15-0 record during the 2000-01 regular season. Assistant coach Kerby Bentley says he's "blown away" with his team's accomplishments.

"The guys worked hard, developed some character and composure, which was the key."

The gold medal match featured two of the country's best bumpers, setters and spikers. The Loyalist Lancers, from Belleville, Ont., were ranked seventh in the country, while Niagara was ranked third. For those of you who follow the unstoppable Knights, you'll realize they've been standing at the third place position for quite some time.

Unfortunately for Loyalist, Niagara saved their greatest performance of the season for the OCAA gold medal match.

In three exciting games, the Knights overpowered the Lancers in every offensive and defensive category. "It just all came together," says captain Josh Gunnell.

The 22-year-old power from Essex, Ont., was selected as an all-star of the tournament. After three strenuous and competitive years as a Knight in shining armour, Gunnell received what he deserved. "I finally got some respect," says Gunnell humorously. "It feels good."

Continued on page 16

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NIAGARA NEWS

MARCH 9, 2001 FREE VOLUME 31 ISSUE 12

Niagara News is produced by the Journalism — Print students at Niagara College, Welland Campus

Nauman Farooq contemplates his new job with an international car Web site as he stands in front of a Ferrari 348 Spider at the Lamborghini Canada dealership, in Toronto. See story on page 7.

Photo by Laura T. Ricciuto

$5.6-million deficit forecasted by college

By LAURA T. RICCIUTO
Staff Writer

If Niagara College was to "do nothing and take no action" about the college's financial situation, it is projecting an estimated $5.6-million deficit, at the end of three years, March 31, 2004.

Niagara College President Dan Patterson reviewed what he considers to be the "highlights" of the 1999-2000 term in the college's Annual Report sent to the Ministry of Training, Colleges and Universities.

He said Niagara was able to report to the ministry $1.8 million in excess revenues for the past year, 1999-2000, but after all contingencies are paid, the college is "fighting and struggling with a $1.8-million shortfall."

In a telephone interview yesterday with Darrell Neufeld, executive assistant to the president, Niagara was "able to wipe out" the $1.8 million projected deficit for the 2000-2001 fiscal year "through much pain, anguish and hard work."

Neufeld says the college will post a $293,000 surplus by the end of this fiscal year, March 31.

Neufeld explained the $5.6 million forecasted deficit as being "the worst possible scenario" if the college was to "do nothing and take no action."

In a presentation to the Board Governors on Feb. 22, Steve Hudson, vice-president corporate services, announced the college's preliminary forecasts are to have $1.8 million in shortfalls the first year, increasing to $2.6 million in the second year and about $3 million in the third year.

Continued on page 2

Welland YMCA closer to home at Niagara College
~ Page 8 ~

Journalism, broadcasting students trade places
~ Page 9 ~

Barenaked Ladies rock 'n' roll in Hamilton concert
~ Page 14 ~

INDEX

EDITORIALS 4
INSIGHTS 5
COMMUNITY PARTNERS 8, 9
ENTERTAINMENT 14, 15
SPORTS 16, 17, 18

FOLLOW THE MONEY

Deficit of $5.6 million forecasted by college

Continued from page 1

Asked by a board member if the college will be facing a deficit in future years, Hudson replied, "Yes, we would have a deficit of $3 million in two years," adding, "That's not cumulative, but each year."

While there was a negative tone in the boardroom, when the deficit was discussed, Bonnie Rose, the college's vice-president academic, was quick to shed a more positive light.

"As we posted a surplus, seven of the 24 colleges were posting deficits," said Rose to the board, adding, "one of the highest is $15 million (in deficit)."

College officials are explaining these shortfalls result from increased labour and utility expenses coupled with no additional government funding being secured.

Patterson explains the college's "greatest improvements" over the last year to be the growth of the hospitality and tourism industry as well as the "state-of-the-art" technological capabilities.

"It is a defining moment in our history when we can offer high-end technology that few other colleges can match," said the president.

> ***'As we posted a surplus, seven of the 24 colleges were posting deficits.'***
> ***— Bonnie Rose***

As of March 1, 2000 Niagara College reported a full-time enrolment of 4,725 students along with 330 part-time students.

There was a slight decrease in Niagara's full-time enrolment from the previous year, although the number of part-time students increased.

Niagara graduated 1,645 students in 1999-2000, an increase of more than 150 graduates from 1998-1999.

Niagara engaged in three more articulation agreements, bringing the total to 23 partnerships with other universities and school boards.

In 1999-2000 new partnerships included Athabasca University in Alberta, Brock University in St. Catharines and Saginaw Valley State University in Michigan.

Rose explained this would allow applicants to "stream-line" and complete a degree.

For the average student, Rose said these partnerships will allow more flexibility when transferring credits between partner learning institutions since the details are "pre-arranged."

Rose explained "the really exciting one is Brock," adding that Athabasca offers students correspondence courses through computerized distant learning and that Saginaw Valley has "a lot to offer in technology."

"It is a synergy of partnerships blossoming in all directions," explained the president.

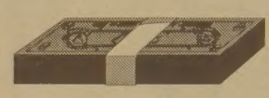
As for Patterson's goals for Niagara in the year to come, he said, the college will focus on becoming the "best mid-size college" in Ontario.

Toronto Institute of Internal Auditors offers $2,000 scholarship

By KEVIN HARTFORD
Staff Writer

Who wants $2,000?

The Toronto Chapter of The Institute of Internal Auditors is offering the Arthur Child Scholarship, worth $2,000, to a full-time student enrolled in an undergraduate university degree program or a three-year college diploma program suitable to the pre-requisites of the Certified Internal Auditor examination.



The potential scholarship winner must be registered in the second year of a three-year program, or in the second or third year of a four-year program. The potential winner's field of study must be in business or accounting, or in a program with an accounting major that includes coverage of Internal Auditing.

Scholarship applicants must write a 300- to 400-word essay on how internal audit can add value to the organization as the organization moves into the new economy.

They must include a description of any extra-curricular activities or community work they're involved in, an up-to-date certified university or college transcript and three letters of reference, one of which must be an academic reference.

The deadline for application is March 16. An application can be obtained from Niagara College's Financial Aid and Admissions office.

President's Advisory Forum

Let your voice be heard.

Join College President, Dan Patterson, for the President's Advisory Forum

Monday, March 12
12:30 to 1:30 p.m.
at the Welland Campus
Room S211

Mr. Patterson invites all students and staff for an open discussion of issues, concerns and questions affecting the Niagara College community.

We want to hear from you!

NIAGARA COLLEGE CANADA

BEYOND OUR BORDERS

International students at college highest in country

By NAUMAN FAROOQ
Staff Writer

At Niagara College the ratio of regular students to international students registered is the second highest in the country.

Sean Coote says Niagara is aiming to be No. 1.

Addressing the growth of the International Students Department here, has created a new employment position for Coote as the new manager of International Student Recruitment and Services.

Coote, 27, of Welland, has been employed in the department for seven years.

Prior to his new position, he was an international student adviser and a part-time, co-op placement employee.

One of his first jobs in the department was that of summer program co-ordinator.

Coote, who has a diploma in Human Resource Management from Niagara College, is studying for a bachelor of commerce degree from Niagara University in Niagara Falls, N.Y.

He says the advice he gives most to students is to make "a good impression" in their co-op job.

"Come in early, stay late, shine, do the best in a co op job."

SEAN COOTE

He says if students want to keep the job they started on placement or during their co-op placement, they should show the employer that they are willing to "work long and hard."

He says he is an example of that approach, as that's how he got a full-time job here.

He explained his two brothers also did co-op and are working at their placements.

That is not to say he doesn't work hard now, since he has the job. "Far from it," he says.

Coote, along with others in the department, has worked to expand the name of Niagara College at the international level.

"When I started, only six countries were represented at Niagara College. Now it's 42." Coote's job is to market the college and the education it provides.

He says his new job is not as hands-on as his old job, but it is more work.

His new position is "to help maintain and increase the number of international students in Niagara College and continue to provide good quality service."

Brock receives $740,000 donation

Gift from Unisys

By MATT WATLING
and SCOTT THOMSON
Staff Writers

"It's a terrific day for Brock University," said David Atkinson, president and vice chancellor of Brock University in St. Catharines.

Atkinson was part of the ceremony held on Jan. 30 to dedicate the Information Technology at Brock to Unisys, in recognition of a $740,000 gift.

Unisys, a private company, donated the money to the university in order to update current programs used by the computer science students. Along with the Ontario government, which matched each dollar donated to the university by Unisys, the total amount of money was close to $1.5 million.

Without the funds "Brock would not have that software," said Atkinson. "We could not buy it, we could not afford it."

Student Rey Vandervliet, a third-year Computer Science student, said the software bought with the money would enable the students to "learn by doing."

"It's a great help for us (students)." He said the new software teaches students skills "prevalent in the working world."

"Computing is an exciting industry. It's growing quickly," said Ron Brown, dean of Math and Science. He said about 500 students will benefit from the new program.

"In the computer science business you need an upgrade every week. This is a continuing process," Brown said, adding Brock is talking with Unisys on another phase to the investment.

"Computer science never slows down."

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EDITORIALS

The Niagara News is a practical lab for the Journalism-Print program, covering the college community and other areas of interest.
Opinions expressed are not necessarily those of the management of the Niagara News or the administration of
Niagara College. P.O. Box 1005, Room S212, 300 Woodlawn Rd., Welland, Ont. L3B 5S2
Phone (905) 735-2211 / 641-2252 / 374-7454 / FAX (905) 736-6003
Editor: Paul Finelli; **Associate Editor:** Scott Rosts; **Assistant Editor:** Calum McNeil;
Publisher: Leo Tiberi, director, Communications and Information Technology;
Editor-in-Chief: Stu Black, project manager, New Media Development;
Managing Editor: Phyllis Barnatt, co-ordinator, Journalism-Print program;
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Gun owners must be more accountable

It could have easily been another Columbine.

On Monday, 15-year-old Charles Andrews Williams, smiling, opened fire with a .22-point calibre rifle in his San Diego, Calif., high school. Wounded were 13 students and staff and killed were two students.

Williams, the previous weekend, had told friends of his plan to bring a gun to school. They thought he was joking. By some students' accounts, he was picked on for being "skinny" and a "nerd." Other students claimed he had recently taken to getting into fights and his mother even said her son was "skinny, but tough."

This latest incident may be the deadliest in the U.S. since April 1999 when two Columbine High School students in Littleton, Colo., killed 12 students and a teacher before killing themselves.

It has been revealed the gun probably belonged to Williams's father. How exactly the teen got hold of the firearm remains a mystery.

Gun lobbyists and their supporters would argue there's no hard evidence to link the right to own guns, enshrined in American law, to recent rampant shootings. Indeed, there may not be a provable direct link.

What if, though, the right has become so embedded in Americans' psyche that it may partly explain the need felt by some to own a gun. Maybe that blinds some parents and guardians who then think nothing of stocking a gun at home before considering how or if their children may get hold of it.

If it's remotely possible for children to acquire a weapon at home, from a so-called responsible adult, and if they're able then to cause harm or death to themselves or others, something drastic is needed.

More accountability is needed by those who carelessly leave behind, or improperly store, a gun which is used by a child in committing a violent crime.

Maybe parents, guardians, anyone entrusted with the care of children, could do well without the "the right to bear arms."

Paul Finelli

Canada should respect decisions by U.S. justice system

An eye for an eye. The debate continues over the death penalty.

The Supreme Court of Canada ruled in mid-February that two Canadians charged with a triple murder in the United States can't be extradited to face charges unless the U.S. judicial system agrees to not seek the death penalty.

Canada has no right to interfere with the U.S. courts. We'll just begin to make a reputation for ourselves as a haven for those fleeing U.S. law. Perhaps Canada would have a legitimate reason if the accused were facing charges in a country where they wouldn't receive a fair trial, but a U.S. decision should be respected.

In a situation where someone murders intentionally or for gain, the price they pay should mirror their actions. The U.S. has realized this, and Canada is interfering with the punishment these criminals deserve. In some ways, Canada needs to start thinking like our neighbours to the south.

For Canadians, maybe killing those convicted of homicide is the first step. In cases where there is some uncertainty as to motive, life imprisonment with no chance of parole for any reason, would be appropriate.

The system isn't perfect. Just recall the cases of David Milgaard and Guy Paul Morin, both wrongfully convicted and jailed for crimes which newfound evidence couldn't support.

If we are to kill the offender, the evidence the justice system bases its decision upon must be irrefutable — scientifically.
Morally is a whole different question.

Scott Rosts

Letter to the Editor

Feb. 9 edition's front page picture represented lust not love

Dear Editor:

Please allow me to preface this letter by telling you that I am a faculty member at this college, and, as such, I do not enjoy criticizing student work.

However, I feel compelled to write this letter to express my disagreement with your choice of words for the cover page of your Valentine's Day edition of *Niagara News* (Volume 31, Issue 10). As a person who has been very much "in love" for the past 32 years, I disagree with your use of the word "love".

I believe your caption "Valentine's Day: Express your 'love'" should have read, "Valentine's Day: Express your 'lust'." If that had been the caption, I would have had no reason to write this letter. The caption lead me to believe that the picture was a depiction of "love", but let me assure you, it is not!

I know!

Respectfully submitted,

Betty Ann Chandler
Professor English as a Second Language
International Education

Your voice or opinion is welcome in our Letters to the Editor section. Our policy regarding letter submissions is this: All letters must be received on the Friday one week prior to publication. Each letter must include the writer's name, college identification number and program of study.
All letters must be signed and include a day and evening telephone number for verification use only.
All letters can be mailed or brought to the Niagara News newsroom, Room S212, Simcoe Building, Welland Campus.

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INSIGHTS

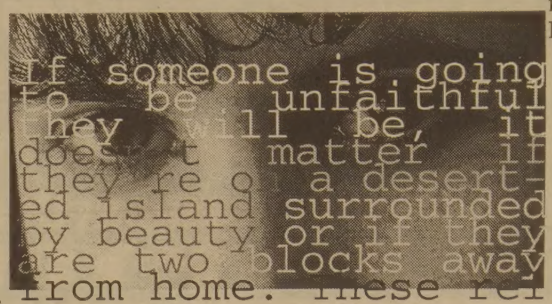
Temptation Island show exploits love

By LAURA T. RICCIUTO
Staff Writer

Tempting fate and testing love.

Television's new reality show Temptation Island has crossed the morality line this time.

Four couples agreed to be placed on an exotic Caribbean island separated from the one they love, only to share their two-week vacation with more than a dozen total strangers of the opposite sex.



Prompting these couples to look love in the eye and face whatever twists and turns the relationship rollercoaster takes, are many years of not knowing if they have found "THE ONE."

Searching for a final answer to the mighty question "Is this the person for me, or is there someone better?" these couples pull out all the stops and venture into the "dating game," their last chance of being single with no emotional strings attached.

As these couples embark on journeys that will either prove their love for one another or tear their relationships apart, reality strikes and the emotions fly.

What gauls me is why these people would want to "air their dirty laundry" on prime time television for the world to see their long-time mate be tempted by infidelity.

If it's not bad enough to realize you have a cheating mate, do you really want to have your heart shattered in the presence of a camera crew eager to broadcast this "bitter reality" to millions of voyeurs at home?

As one guest put it, "He won't be doing anything different than he already does. This time I'll just know about it."

OK, she has a point, but if your mate is going to look elsewhere for love why would he or she do so on television when they know you'll find out? I don't see the point.

If someone is going to be unfaithful they will be, it doesn't matter if they're on a deserted island surrounded by beauty or if they are two blocks away from home.

These relationships ranged from one to five years; one couple has a child together. Questioning, years later, whether or not there is someone better out there seems a little late.

For goodness sake, if you don't know if the person you are spending your life with day in and day out is the person for you, then perhaps people should stop jumping into relationships of which they are unsure.

When you commit, you should know then and there whether or not you think that person is meant for you.

Anyway, if you really need to know, the answer is simple. Of course there is someone better out there, but better doesn't necessarily mean better for you.

If you are happy in a relationship, why do you want to test the waters to see if there is a "better" fish in the sea? Maybe that "new love" only appears "perfect" until you really get to know them too.

Let's face it, nobody's perfect, including you. There is no prince charming in the real world and don't count on the fairy-tale relationship either because it's never going to happen and if it does, chances are it won't last long.

Perfect is what you make it and what you want it to be. Love is about realizing and accepting one's shortcomings not using it against them.

If you want to know if you've found the one, look good and hard at all aspects of your current relationship. Yes, I do mean the good, the bad and the ugly. If the pros outweigh the cons, don't complain; you're not doing too badly. But when all the "cute and silly" things that your honey does become the "stupid and annoying" maybe it's time to set each other free.

If one day you find that you have fallen out of love, have the decency to talk to your partner. Why drag them onto national television to break their heart?

Smiling: possible cure for everyday problems

By RACHEL MONTOUR
Staff Writer

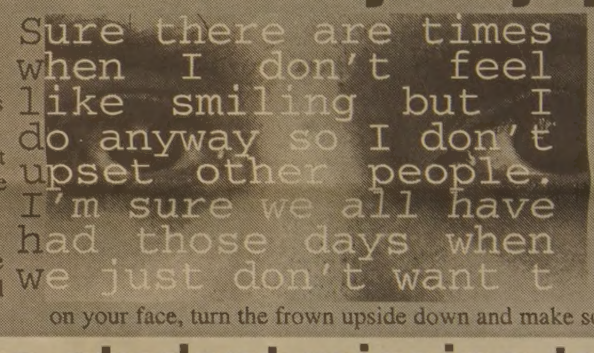
Smile.

It's a habit that is hard to break. Everyday I smile at least 10 times. I think it makes the day more positive and happy when someone smiles.

Sure there are times when I don't feel like smiling but I do anyway so I don't upset other people. I am sure we all have had those days when we just don't want to wake up. People need to stop feeling sorry for themselves.

A smile would make them feel better.

People should smile a lot more often. I think it would make the world a better place to live. There would be a lot less hostility among people. The clouds of anger and gloom would be lifted off our shoulders.


Sure there are times
when I don't feel
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upset other people.
I'm sure we all have
had those days when
we just don't want t

A smile could be a cure for war in this world. Happy people tend not to fight because they look on the bright side of things.

I think people should be happy and smile a lot more. A smile makes life worth living. I don't think I would enjoy living in a world if everyone were upset and grumpy all the time.

The next time you wear a scowl on your face, turn the frown upside down and make someone else's day by smiling.

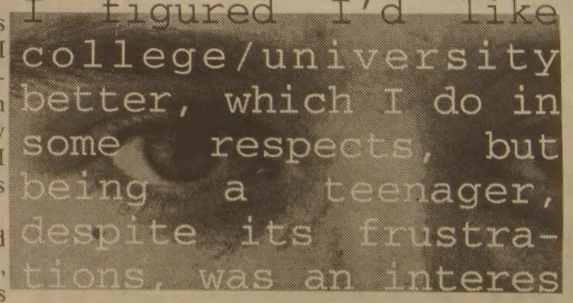
Transition into adulthood leaves student missing teenage years

By AARON YZERMAN
Staff Writer

Most people will tell me otherwise, but I consider 20 to be old.

When I was about 15 or so, I looked forward to getting older because I knew people would take me seriously. But in exchange for that, I now feel as though I'm getting old quickly, and sometimes I can almost feel my youth slipping away.

I'm a bit envious of people younger than I am because they have more time to enjoy themselves. Mind you, I'm far from being an outgoing person, but sometimes I very much miss my teenage years. My 20th birthday felt like any other one I've had, but to me, the number 20 has lots of luggage to carry.



I wanted out of high school pretty badly when I was there. I figured I'd like college/university better, which I do in some respects, but being a teenager, despite its frustrations, was an interesting and important time. I often find myself listening to and reading stuff I did in my teenage years because it helps me remember the past. I find it unfair that the things I enjoyed when I was younger are no longer a possibility.

Gone are the days when you could call up a friend and hang out with them. They've moved away, too. It's strange, because you were able to see them all the time and now, it's become an organized event when you're able to see them once every few months or so.

The people you grew up with are living somewhere else. They have their own careers, they're possibly married, and might even have children. They probably don't have a quarter of the time they did before to spend with you.

Older people I know tell me, "What I'd give to be your age again," which I can understand, but I'm not that young anymore - I certainly don't feel it. I think responsibility really needs to be on the minds of people around the age of 19 and up.

It's pretty depressing, really. I mean, you know you're getting older, you know you have things to do, and that's it. The working world faces us once we get out of school, and that's a bit upsetting.

The key is to find something you enjoy and do it for as long as you like, because if you get stuck with a job you don't like, the rest of your life won't be as pleasant as you'd prefer. Having fun is the spirit of youth, so if you're enjoying what you're doing, you'll probably still feel young.

I'll soon have completed my second year of college, and I really want out. I'm impatient because I want to be out and working, but instead, I'm stuck in school, learning things that don't have a lot of connection to what I'll be doing once I'm out. Journalism-Print is an excellent program, and I've learned some useful things while I've been here since January 2000. Reporting, however, is not part of my plan. Directing and screenwriting is what I'll be doing once I finally get out of school. I have a lot of things I want to do, and not enough time to do it in, hence, the less time I have to spend in school, the better.

Ideally, I would be out writing and directing now - but instead, I'll likely have to stay in school for another two, three, four . . . maybe even more, years. It seems like a waste, and for me, being trapped in a school is not an effective way to spend the minimal, if any, time I have left in my youth.

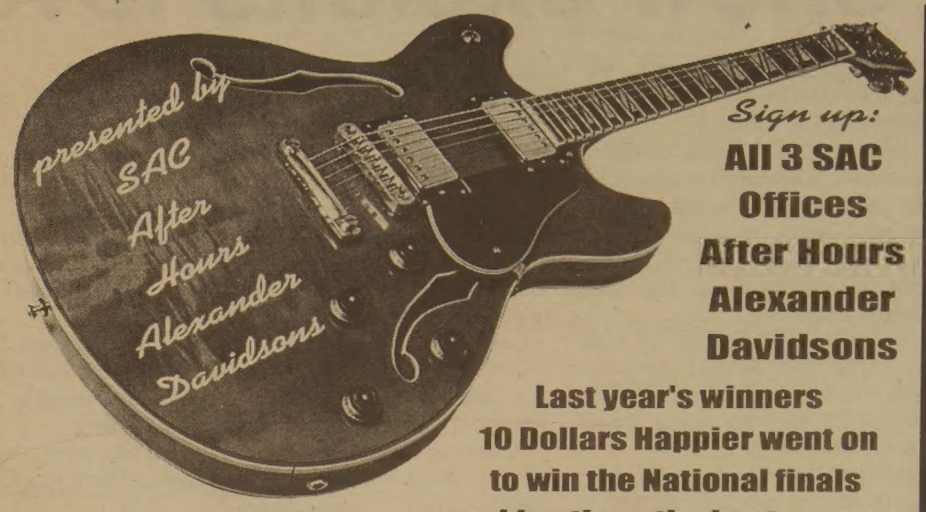
Maybe my expectations/perspective will change when I get older, but for now, the way I see it is, at 30, your life is essentially over.

If you haven't accomplished the things you wanted to by that time, it's too late. By then, your youth is gone and your time in the spotlight is over. However, if you can do your best to separate yourself from the routines that face us in our adult years, perhaps our youth will remain intact.

We interview Martha Casson, Niagara College's vice-president of enterprise and student affairs, in our next edition March 16.

All entertainment provided free of charge from SAC

NIAGARA COLLEGE TRI-CAMPUS BATTLE OF THE BANDS 2001



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COMEDY NETWORKS COMEDY CONCERT

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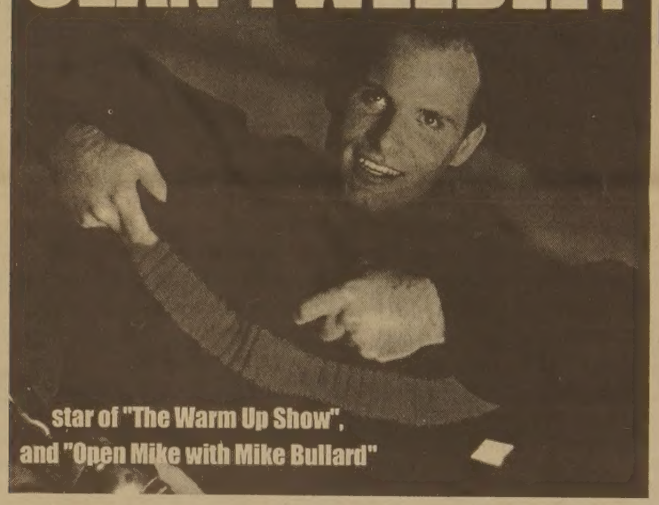

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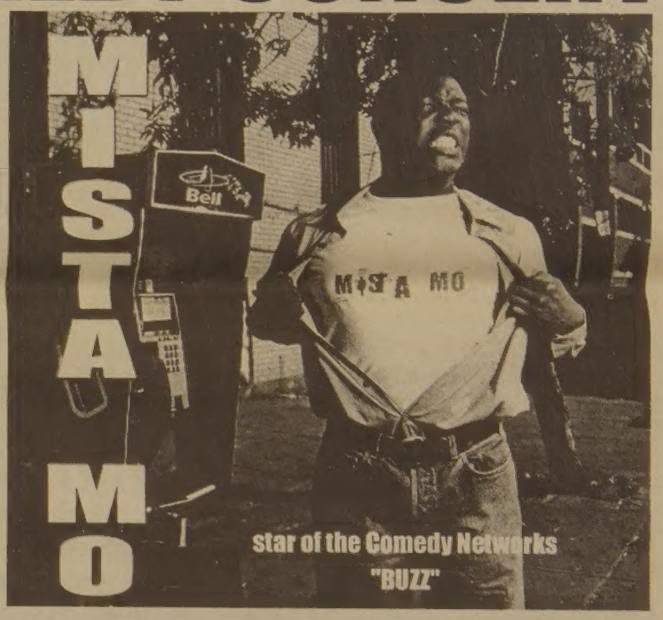

star of the Comedy Networks "BUZZ"

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With TV's Ben Guyatt host of Comedy at Club 54

FRIDAY MARCH 23rd

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CHEAP DATE 2001

Big Canadian Band, Small Campus Pub, After Hours, you gotta win to get in, see SAC or PUBS for details

@ADVANCEMENT

Director still learning after year in her role

By TARA FORD
Staff Writer

Trish Labonté says she "enjoys the moment."

"I'm fortunate my work and life have melded together. I'm doing what I enjoy and I have the capacity to do well."

Labonté is the director of Continuing Education and Learning Resources. She has been the director of continuing education for only a year and says she has learned "all sorts of things" in that time. She still has a large role in the library but she's not able to be there as much as she'd like to be.

"It has been a major year of learning." In the library, she still has "a lot of involvement" as to what direction things are taking.

She says she loves the social aspect of going to school and takes part-time courses whenever she can. She took garden design last summer and calls herself a "novice" gardener. "I enjoy the colour and change in a piece of land over time."

She plans to take botanical illustration this summer. Labonté shared an interesting story of her plans. When she was pregnant with her first son, she bought a book on botanical illustration, expecting to put the baby to bed in the afternoons and have time to draw. "In 18-1/2 years I have not cracked this book," she says, laughing.

Labonté says she goes to movies when there is time but that she's not a "movie buff." She "loved" Billy Elliot.

Another interest of hers is reading. This didn't come as a big surprise because she is the director of Learning Resources.

Her grandfather, Jim Atherton Sr., "set the tone really early" when it came to learning and reading. Atherton read a "variety of materials and had built, over time, his own personal library." It had books on art, history, philosophy and much more.

Labonté says between her grandfather and her parents, she gained her love of books and reading. "I was brought up in an understated way with the notion that there's always something more to learn."

Talking about her grandfather seemed to move Labonté. She got more involved in the conversation and it appeared she almost forgot I was there as she was getting caught up in a daydream going back to her childhood.

'I'm fortunate my work and life have melded together. I'm doing what I enjoy and I have the capacity to do well.'

Atherton was a master carpenter who came from England and was "very skilled." He started his carpentry shop here and raised four boys.

Every Sunday morning after church she would make visits to her grandfather's home and he would have "a sundae or some kind of treat" ready for her and her brother. He would ask them what they had learned throughout the week and at church. He was a "huge influence and I hope I can pass the same (influence) along to my kids."

"My grandfather was a man of substance, thoughtfulness and sensitivity."

Labonté has been married for 27 years to husband, Michael, and has two children, Braden, 18 and Dane, 16. She has one brother in Vancouver whom she doesn't "see enough of." She is close to her brother and was his "best man" in his wedding.

She says she is close to all of her family. Her dad lives down the street from her home and she sees him "very often." She doesn't see her brother much but "he is an e-mail away."

She says some of her longtime friends are her dearest friends.

One thing Labonté regrets not doing more of is travel. She says she wonders where she would have fit it in. It's a "wonderful way to understand new perspectives." When she was in university, she had an opportunity to work in a Native American village in the Northwest Territories for the summer.

"It was fabulous to see the social challenges, the bonding and the love of music and dance."

She has travelled across Canada. She says she feels that everyone should get a chance to do that because it's a "wonderful country."

She earned an undergraduate degree in geology from university. A lot of places "intrigue me." She'd like to get to England, the British Isles, Scotland and get "back to my roots." Egypt, New Zealand and Australia are a few more stops on her travel itinerary.

"The more you see of the world, the more open you are to different perspectives."

Labonté describes herself as enthusiastic, a hard worker and curious. Enthusiastic because she "tends to see the positive." Hard worker because she likes to do a good job. Her curiosity comes from when she was a child her parents taught her that there was always more to learn.

Car-loving journalist looking for future career in automotive reporting

By LAURA T. RICCIUTO
Staff Writer

He clicked his camera. He clicked his mouse. He clicked his way onto the information highway.

Nauman Farooq, a second-year Journalism-Print program student at Niagara College, has recently been named the North American correspondent for www.pistonheads.com, an international automotive Web site.

It all began when Farooq spotted a listing in the job posting section of the site and applied for the position.

David Edmonston, editor of www.pistonheads.com, was soon in touch with Farooq and requested that he forward his results from the next auto show.

After compiling a variety of his car reviews and photographs from the 2001 North American International Auto Show, in Detroit, Mich., Farooq was offered the position with the British-based site.

Although he says he is paid for each individual submission, he remained reluctant to "reveal" his exact earnings to the *Niagara News*.

As North American corespondent, it is Farooq's responsibility to inform the editor of stories and auto shows that would be of interest to readers. Within this position, he acts as a freelance photographer and writer, while attending the auto shows.

With a sudden smile, Farooq recalls his fascination for cars began when he was "very little."

Within seconds, he begins to elaborate on his recollections of an auto show he attended in Malaysia when he was a toddler.

"My very first memory of being interested in cars goes all the way back to when I was two years old."

Now, at the age of 24, his eyes still sparkle as he vividly recalls the moment he first laid eyes on that silver Lamborghini Countach. "It was just beautiful."

While his automotive preferences have shifted slightly over the years, Farooq explains,

"My favourite car is not a Ferrari or a Lamborghini, but instead it's the 1994 Bugatti EB110 Super Sport."

Barely a second passed before he jumped to the opportunity to tell why this is his "favourite."

He starts off simple by warming us up with a little of the car's background, stating, "It's Italian . . I love Italian cars."

Then, in rapid-automotive jargon, Farooq fires out terms like: 3.5-litre V12 engine with four turbo chargers enabling 618 horsepower, propelling the vehicle via six-speed manual transmission and four-wheel drive.

"Couple all this with the rich history of the Bugatti nameplate, and this car is an instant classic in my book."

In addition to his car reviews for the *Niagara News*, he has worked as a freelance writer at London's Fanshawe College's student union paper, *Interrobang*, for more than three years.

Asked for an estimate of how many car reviews he has conducted throughout his career, his quick response is "Too many to count."

Because of the "flexibility" that freelance Internet writing offers, he says, it is a job he could always keep "on the side."

As for the future, Farooq says, in five years he hopes to be working for an automotive magazine as a full-time journalist, adding he also has several business ideas that he "would like to see get flourished."

New Web site offers job links, skills upgrading at your fingertips

By KANDIS THORSBY
Staff Writer

The world is at your fingertips.

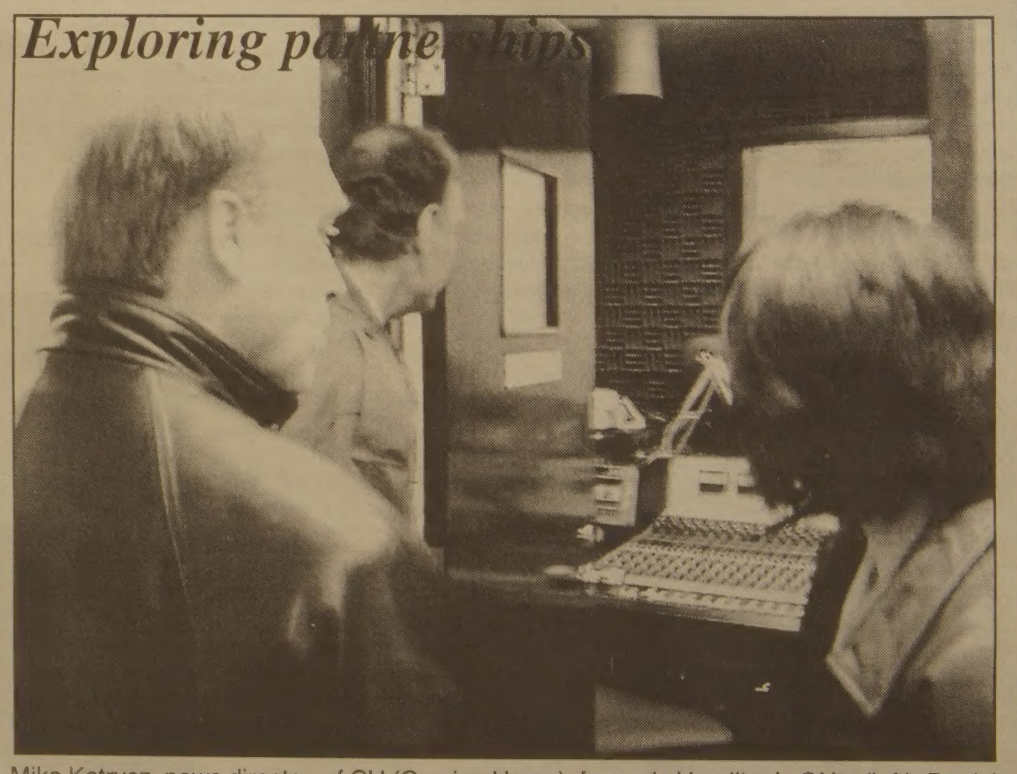
www.course411.com is a helpful Web site sponsored by Galt Western Personnel Ltd. to aid students in finding a proper career.

The Web site offers students career assessments, job links, vocational schools, skills upgrading and apprenticeships. The prices of these tests are relatively low compared to other career advisory Web sites.

This site consists of scholarship and financial aid resources, sites that will hook users up with used books from online bookstores with all proceeds going to your favourite community.

It places opportunity in front of graduating students with the personnel department, "placing good people with good clients."

The set up of this page is easy and accessible even for the computer illiterate individual. With a description of each possible option available underneath the icons, this page is created especially for the non-technical user.



Mike Katrycz, news director, of CH (Coming Home), formerly Hamilton's ONtv (left), Patrick O'Hara, CH general manager, and Alysha Henderson, co-ordinator of the Broadcasting — Radio, Television and Film (BRTF) program, toured the broadcasting facilities at the Niagara College Welland campus, yesterday. The tour was aimed at exploring a partnership between CanWest Global, the new owners of CH, and the college's BRTF and Journalism-Print programs. Students' efforts in Convergence 101 can be read on pages 8 and 9.

Photo by Laura T. Ricciuto

COMMUNITY PARTNERS

YMCA move to college a 'win-win'

By ROB PIZZO
Staff Writer

The wheels are in motion to move the Welland YMCA to Niagara College's property.

The new YMCA will be a state-of-the-art 50,000-square-foot building, more than twice the size of the existing Y on East Main Street.

Niagara College, the YMCA and the city of Welland have joined forces on the $11 million project. It wasn't that long ago that the move to the campus looked like it was not going to happen. Before last year's municipal election in November, the three parties were not operating in harmony.

So what made everything come together so quickly? What was the motivation?

The issue must be divided into two time periods — before the election and afterwards. Welland's present council said previous mayor Dick Reuter had different plans for the city and different ways of getting the cash flow to do it.

The Ontario government, because of a huge financial debt by Ontario Hydro, decided to deregulate all of the provincial hydro utilities. They decided to give all the hydros to the municipalities to open up competition. Once this happened, the city of Welland was free to do whatever it wanted with its hydro utility.

The initial plan from Welland's previous council was to sell the city's hydro to a private company (estimated at about $35 million) and build a downtown civic centre equipped with a pool, fitness area, library and anything else that the $35 million would allow.

The YMCA's board of directors was opposed to the deal, but did not want to make any decisions or offers until after last year's municipal election.

After the elections, new Mayor Cindy Forester and her council agreed with the YMCA. They felt that selling the city's hydro wouldn't be financially wise at that time and they began talks with the YMCA.

Sandy O'Dell, vice-mayor of Welland, was initially opposed to the deal between the YMCA and Niagara College.

O'Dell says Welland's economy, based mainly in the housing construction and auto industry, is falling.

With the city putting up $1.5 million for the project, O'Dell says the city "may regret" the deal in a few years. However, now that a decision has been made by council, O'Dell says he is "fully behind" the project.

The SuperBuild fund is the main reason the new council has started to push for the deal. SuperBuild is money available from the Ontario government that will be granting about $60 million this year to local municipalities throughout the province for projects, like the new YMCA.

The decision on who will get the money is up in the air, but the announcement from the government is expected this month.

Depending on when, and if the city of Welland will see any of the SuperBuild money, O'Dell says businesses in the community must get involved.

"Where we (council) have to do our biggest job building the campaign is to make sure that there are donors out there that have the money to help us out."

O'Dell says the council knew that the Y was something "we can get behind right now, without too much of a burden on the taxpayers initially."

Niagara College President Dan Patterson says he is optimistic Welland will get some of the SuperBuild money.

The outside of the YMCA on East Main Street in Welland.

Photo by Rob Pizzo

"We would be looking at $3 million to $4 million of SuperBuild. They (the province) tend to look at matching grants. If they put three to four million (dollars) then they are looking for the different parties to put equal amounts. That is probably the kind of figure that we expect from the province."

All three partners say the SuperBuild fund was "a very important factor" in getting this project moving, but so was the condition of the old building.

Steve Butz, chief executive officer of the Welland YMCA, says the change in location was necessary to keep up with the times. "You have to step back from what you are doing everyday, and ask yourself how is the community changing or growing? As a result how does the YMCA change or grow?

"If you think about these buildings as tools to accomplish something, the tool we have in Welland has served its purpose, it's done a great job . . . but it's time for a new tool."

The building is more than 30 years old and is less than half the size of the planned new building.

Gary Steers, a present YMCA member, says he "can't wait" for the move. "I like the old building but there is not enough space for the equipment."

One of the main concerns from all three parties is being able to serve the community.

They are concerned with having a big enough facility.

While students at Niagara College will be welcome at the new facility, O'Dell says he didn't want the students to take over the new YMCA, leaving others in the community with nowhere to work out.

Butz says the No. 1 focus of the YMCA is to serve the community. "We wouldn't be doing it if it wasn't for the entire community. Niagara College knows that we are not coming and operating a student-program centre, it's a community program centre."

The college does know that, says Patterson, adding he has no fear of a student takeover.

"In order for this facility to be up and running, the Y will be looking for additional people to be coming on . . . new members, so I don't think we will see the student body being predominant in terms of numbers."

For students the question is about location. Why Niagara College? Many people say they feel the downtown area would have been a better spot for the new building. Not only is downtown easy to get to, but many people say a new YMCA will help the revitalization of the downtown area.

However, there are many advantages to the campus that some people have overlooked.

Butz says there are three main advantages to choosing Niagara College.

"It is very well situated to serve the existing community. It is very well situated to serve our community. It is very well situated to serve future communities, and, by being at Niagara College, I think there is a benefit to us in terms of being able to provide services to the community and also to the college community, which is an important role for us to play."

Patterson agrees. He says if the proposal to move the YMCA goes according to plan, the location of Hennepin Hall would be "an ideal spot." It is 30 years old, and was "supposed to have an occupational life of nine years," says Patterson, adding, "so we have really extended the building, it's pretty tired and would be a nice opportunity to be able to replace it."

Ray Sarkis, Niagara College athletic director, says the move will not only be "great for the existing students," but will help get more students to come to the college. "Overall, it will be great for the school, of course, it will be good for recruiting students, your everyday students. Knowing that this type of facility is available for them to use, like a pool to use everyday," says Sarkis.

Patterson says the facility will do a "good job attracting more athletes to our programs."

The YMCA, Niagara College and Welland partnership is a groundbreaker, say officials involved.

There is "no other" YMCA with a partnership with a college or university, says Butz.

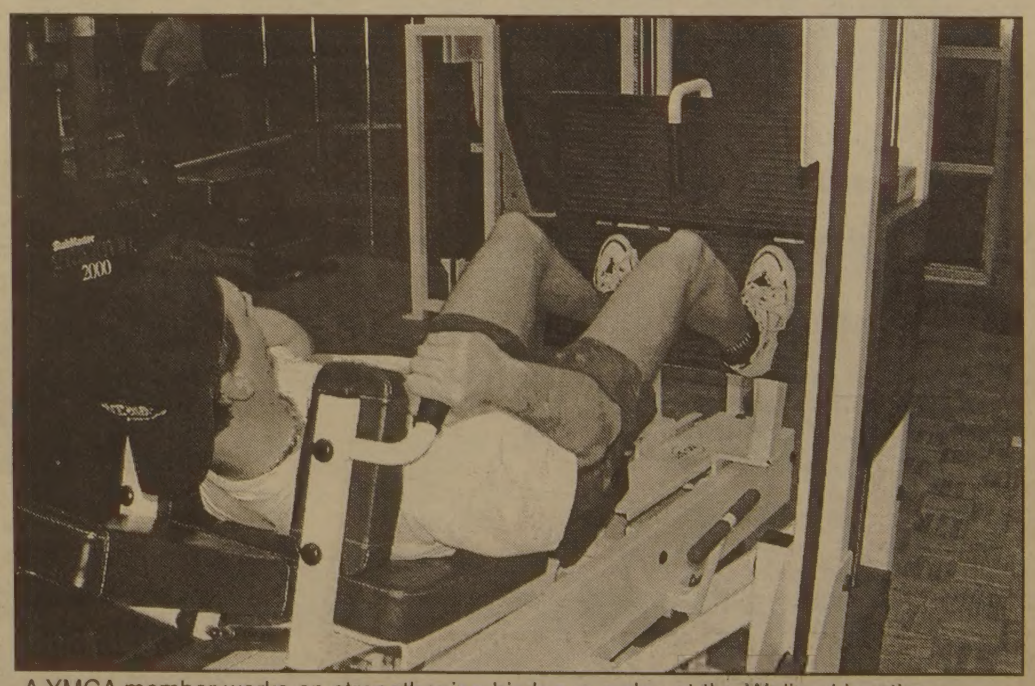
Patterson says everyone will have a hand in building a "great new facility."

"We believe very strongly in involving the students, the staff and the community and what they think are the important components of a good, well-functioning YMCA."

Student membership at the YMCA costs $18.50 a month.

Patterson says the YMCA is "always looking for memberships, and we'll be, for sure, negotiating a great membership rate for our students."

The move is a "win-win situation" for all groups in the city community, says Butz, adding the partnership will make everything happen. "We have an opportunity to do something together that not one organization could do alone."



A YMCA member works on strengthening his leg muscles at the Welland location.

Photo by Rob Pizzo

COMMUNITY PARTNERS

Students switch places to gain experience

By SCOTT THOMSON
Staff Writer

It seems the old adage of "taking a walk in someone else's shoes" is a good experience after all. At least for two Niagara College students.

Rob Pizzo, a second-year Broadcasting — Radio, Television and Film (BRTF) student, and Dan D'Amico, a second-year Journalism-Print student, took part in a project for CanWest Global Corp. recently.

The assignment's premise was fairly simple in theory, take a student who is usually trained in print-journalism and turn him into a broadcasting student in a few weeks, and vice-versa. The people at CanWest Global, and in Niagara College's administration, wanted to see if it was possible to train a student in more than one aspect of the media and try to create a graduate that was prepared for anything.

"It's tough to do. It's a whole semester's work crunched into a few weeks," said D'Amico, 20, of St. Catharines, Ont.

The project started in early February when Journalism-Print and BRTF instructors came to the students with the idea. The students met with the advisers and laid out their plans of attack.

This was just like a typical editorial meeting, with which both students are familiar. They talked about all possible breaks and ideas for the story, then broke off to do the work.

Both Pizzo and D'Amico seemed a little nervous about everything at first but asked each other for advice whenever they needed it. There seemed to be a good dynamic between the two. They knew each other from mutual classes so they worked well together.

Pizzo's part of the assignment was to create a traditional news story and have it printed in the *Niagara News*. Though Pizzo was already familiar with interviewing skills, he said the greatest difficulty with his half involved the amount of detail that goes into a newspaper report. A news piece prepared for television is only about a minute long so he had to obtain much more background information to write the story. As for D'Amico, he had to summarize.

"I don't know what's newsworthy for broadcasting stories so I just asked what I thought were newsworthy questions," said D'Amico. Pizzo, on the other hand, asked more detailed questions than he is used to. He said in broadcasting, the reporter is more concerned with a sound bite, a quick summary statement, than with detail.

"Although both are done in media, there are vast differences. The skills I learned in broadcasting prepared me for a news article," said Pizzo, of Guelph, Ont. "Through this experience I have gained a huge respect for the other side of the coin."

D'Amico spent his time being taught broadcasting rules and working on his writing. Unlike print-journalism, broadcasting writing is a different style than he is used to, so he said he had to work on it.

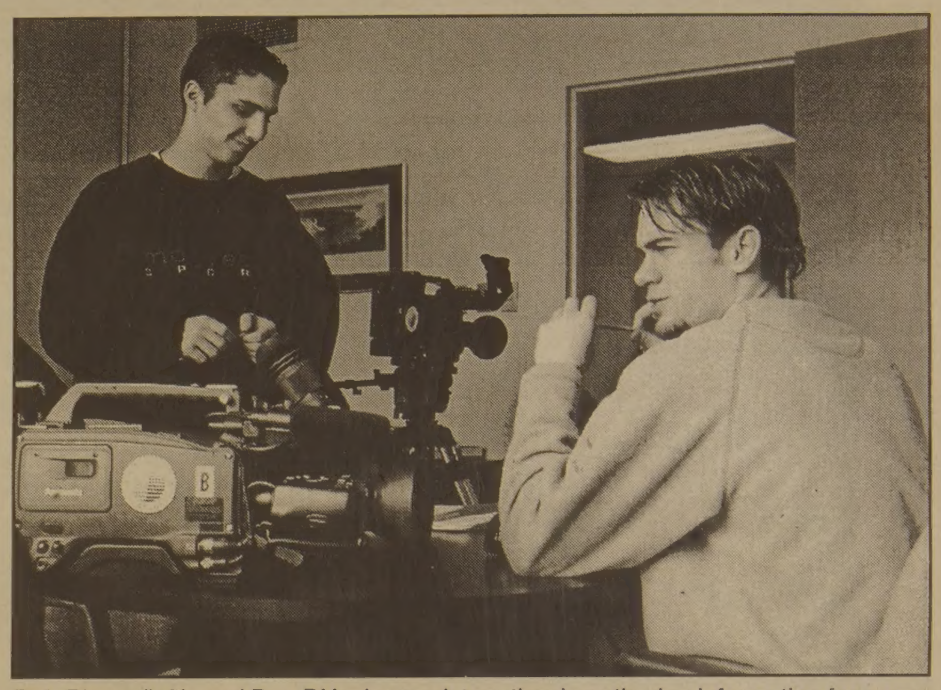
"It was difficult at first to try to forget the frame of mind I was taught in journalism and start thinking non-linearly for the eye and ear. It was weird writing for this. I keep telling myself don't edit it. Keep the longer sentences," he said.

Part of D'Amico's duties was to go on camera and do a lead into the stories. He had to shave and also comb his hair before this and said it was a "different" experience. He had to make sure he was fully prepared for the speaking portion and practiced it many times before finally doing it.

"I learned the huge differences between the two programs. I learned the technicalities that are involved in trying to piece together a worthy news story for the screen," D'Amico said, adding, "I'd have to say that overall it was a very good experience. One that I would want to try out again if the opportunity ever arises. I hope that both Journalism-Print and the Broadcasting programs can benefit from what Rob and I have done."

Pizzo's work can be seen in this edition of the *Niagara News*.

"I think this was a really good experience because you get to see the other side of the media, as opposed to the side I'm used to," said Pizzo. "It was interesting to see if one person can do both jobs. While the workload is higher, the job can be done well."



Rob Pizzo, (left), and Dan D'Amico work together in gathering information for a project for CanWest Global.

Submitted photo

Applications to Niagara increase for this fall

By SCOTT ROSTS
Staff Writer

The numbers are in and applications to Niagara College for this fall are marginally up at 2.2 per cent over last year, the registrar says.

Niagara ranked 10th in two evaluation categories on applications processed by the Ontario College Application Services in Guelph, before the Feb. 1 deadline.

The college ranked 10th out of Ontario's 25 community colleges by being chosen on 8,479 applications, an increase of .3 per cent over last year.

The college also ranked 10th by having 10,949 programs chosen on the applications. The process allows a student to choose up to three programs at the college to which they are applying.

Vaughan says that 23 per cent of applicants to Niagara chose the college as their first choice.

Three colleges, Humber, of Etobicoke, Seneca, of North York, and Sheridan, of Oakville, ranked as the top three in each of the two evaluation processes.

Niagara College's acknowledgement letters started to go out to applicants Jan. 10. According to Al Vaughan, registrar, these letters say "thank you" to applicants and inform them of any missing requirements they need to apply. Acknowledgement letters are still going out.

Vaughan says offers of acceptance will begin to go out on March 31. This date is earlier than two years ago, a move made by Ontario colleges to match the earlier acceptance dates of universities.

Vaughan says they wanted to "roughly match" the changes to the university application system. He added that the universities have moved their acceptance date earlier once again, but the colleges decided they'd "stick with" their date for a few years.

"People are under the impression that the first offer a student gets, (from an institution) has a bigger chance of the student choosing it. I don't really see that. It's not overly important to match the dates," he says.

He says that since applicants have a deadline of June 1 by which to choose to attend a college, there is still lots of time for students to "weigh their decisions."

Vaughan did note that tuition is going up about two to three per cent, depending on the program students are enrolling in, for the second year in a row. On average, Vaughan says tuition in the fall will increase about $78.

"That's pretty much across the whole college system, but I think two per cent is fair."

Protecting our natural heritage

Jean Fau is a chief park warden for Parks Canada. He and his colleagues protect the plant and animal life in our national parks. They also help Canadians explore and enjoy these special places. This is just one of the hundreds of services provided by the Government of Canada.

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- Call **1 800 O-Canada (1 800 622-6232)**
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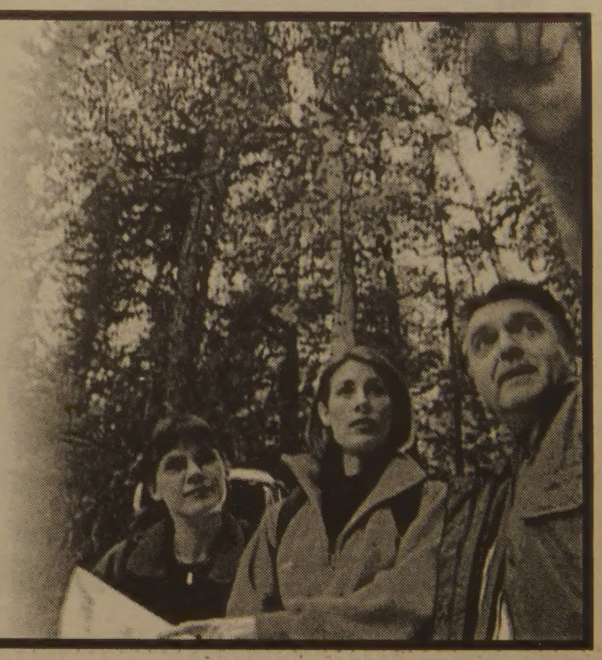

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SCALES OF JUSTICE

Police eligibility tests available at college

By AARON YZERMAN
Staff Writer

Facing tough competition in starting a law enforcement career, interested people will have a helping hand from Niagara College.

Aspiring police officers will have an opportunity to take a series of eligibility tests to apply to police forces in Ontario on Thursday, March 29 at Niagara College. The Toronto Police Service will be conducting the tests that are stage four of the Constable Selection System (CSS).

"Because of the intense competition for these jobs, combined with the wide range of skills and personal characteristics that they're looking for in potential officers, we're trying to reach as many potential applicants as possible," says Gino Arcaro, co-ordinator of Niagara College's Law and Security Administration (LASA) program and Police Foundations (PF) program.

Arcaro says that in the past two years, Niagara College has worked with several police services in the recruitment process by inviting them to the college to do recruiting sessions. "We have an excellent working relationship with the NRPS recruiting branch, who are currently advertising positions that are available for police constables — police officers," he says.

Minimum qualifications for applicants to a police force:

- Canadian citizenship.
- Between the ages of 18 to 65.
- Successful completion of Ontario Grade 12, or an equivalent.
- Valid class "G" license, or its provincial equivalent.
- Free of criminal convictions for which a pardon has not been granted.
- Physically and mentally able to perform the duties of the position, having regard to his/her own safety and the safety of the public.
- Must possess current cardiopulmonary rescucitation and First Aid certificate.
- Must also have a valid Applicant Testing Services or Metro Toronto Police certificate upon application.

"This partnership represents a unique team effort by the NRPS and the college for two reasons — to identify potential candidates and to conversely present students here with as many opportunities as possible to seek employment in the law enforcement field. The NRPS is one of several police services that actually comes here to recruit, which adds the opportunities to students. It adds the opportunity to be informed and make decisions about employment," says Arcaro. "It's becoming a tremendous asset to the students in our programs."

Arcaro says, "One of the places they promote their opportunities to is students in the PF program and LASA program, and the college in its entirety. The whole student body at the college. Their primary goal is to try to identify a pool of candidates."

"For a long time, there was a hiring freeze on," says Const. Jacquie Simms, recruiting officer for the NRPS. "We didn't have a need to hire, but right now, we are looking at large numbers of people retiring in the next five years. They need to be replaced, to be able to keep the full compliment of police officers. So, the need for recruitment is quite great."

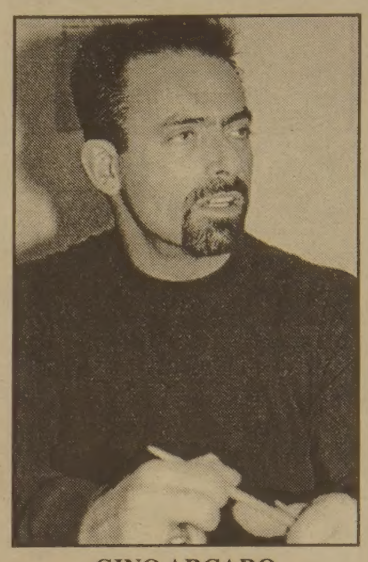
Before applying to a police force, a potential applicant must work through the CSS. After registering to an application service, either Applicant Testing Services Inc., or the Toronto Police Service, and paying a fee of $288.90, the applicant must then successfully complete four tests to obtain an Ontario Association of Chiefs of Police (OACP) certificate. The tests are as follows: GATB, Aptitude (general knowledge, arithmetic, special aptitude) test, WCT, Written Comprehension (scenario-based) Test, PREP Tests physical fitness, vision and hearing, BPAD, Behavioural Personal Assessment Device, which includes a video simulator test.

Upon successful completion of those tests, an interview assessment is conducted by the police service as the need for hiring arises. The applicant will do a one-hour Local Focused Interview (LFI), and answer questions to demonstrate 11 developmental competencies, to a two- or three-person panel. These developmental competencies include information seeking, concern for safety, assertiveness, initiative, co-operation, negotiation/facilitation, work organization, community service orientation, commitment to learn, organizational awareness, developing others.

The next interview, of two to three hours, is an Essential Competency Interview (ECI), based on eight essential competencies including analytical thinking, self-confidence, communication skills, flexibility/dealing with diversity, self-control, relationship building, achievement orientation, physical skills and abilities.

Both tests may be conducted at the same time. After successful completion of the LFI and ECI tests, a Pre-background Questionnaire needs to be filled out and submitted. Following that, a background check is initiated on the applicant, including a psychological assessment. Then, a selection panel conducts a final review. If chosen, the applicant will be offered a paid position as a constable, with a one-year probationary period. He or she will attend the Ontario Police College in Aylmer, Ont., to further their policing education.

"That certificate is valid anywhere in Ontario. It doesn't matter if it's Toronto or ATS. It's the same certificate if you pass. The OACP certificate makes you eligible to be a candidate to apply," Arcaro says. "After they apply to a police force, they (testing services) conduct a series of interviews and background investigation. It's very extensive. The candidate has to prove certain personal characteristics and skills."



GINO ARCARO

"It's very intense competition. The process is very demanding," says Arcaro. "One of the advantages our students have is (that) Metro Toronto is attending here at our campus to provide testing for students who want to get the certificate. Many people who phone here for answers to how to become a police officer are not aware of the lengthy process, but it's more than achievable."

"It was developed to be fair, equitable and consistent," says Simms. "You're going to go through the steps like everyone else. It cuts down on unfair advantages."

Arcaro says while a Grade 12 diploma is the requirement for applying to be an officer, most police forces prefer post-secondary (education) at a college, and/or university.

CONST. JACQUIE SIMMS
Photos by Aaron Yzerman

Simms says college/university programs aren't mandatory, but what students learn in post-secondary education is a valuable tool for policing.

"There's a difference between education and academics. Academics can be night courses, they can be self-education. Go to seminars, career fairs. If a high school student knows we're hiring, he or she will do what they need to do to apply."

"The average age people get hired is in their mid 20s. Police foundations, really, is sort of one of the starting points of a candidate's education. Before PF, several law and security students went to university, worked other places, so it took them four, five, six years sometimes," says Arcaro.

"Work experience is another factor, see, police foundations is a factor. So because of that, it's like a starting point, or the beginning of the process. Then possibly, they (students) want to continue their education at university, get work experience, and then it's that whole package."

"I think it's important that they have life skills, life experiences. And that experience level comes from work and day to day living," explained Simms.

"The other thing that's really important is community involvement. Are you involved in your community, are you active? When policing started, officers walked the beat, chatted with people. That's what police services would like to get back to, take them out of the car, get them back into the community. As a society, we need to go back to that.

"I believe in community service, and a successful police officer does, too. Having a BA (bachelor of arts degree) in psychology, but doing nothing for your community isn't going to get you as far as someone who is involved."

Simms says the NRPS with be trying to hire 20 new constables in May, and anticipate hiring again in September. "It's going to be an ongoing process. We try and do the interviewing on a year-round basis."

"What we're looking for is somebody committed to learning, somebody willing to learn. We don't hire because you're a woman, or because you're black, or because you're native. We're looking for the best candidates — no matter who you are," says Simms.

"It's important that students know that we're very approachable. If you're given information, you can make choices. Education and information is very important for people to make good choices. We'd like to let students know that we'd like their application if that's where their interest lies."

For more information regarding recruitment, contact:

Gino Arcaro, co-ordinator of Police Foundations program and Law and Security Administration program, Niagara College, at (905) 735-2211 ext. 7682;

Sgt. Larry Maracle, recruiting officer for the Niagara Regional Police Service at (905) 735-7811 ext. 3309.

Family waits for justice

By LAURA T. RICCIUTO
Staff Writer

The wait continues for Jo Anne Stubbins, who is seeking justice in the work-related death of her daughter.

A pre-trial date has been set following brief court proceedings on Feb. 27 at Ontario Court in St. Catharines.

Stubbins, a retired 32-year employee of Niagara College's Print Centre at the Welland campus, says she hopes that the April 18 pre-trial will lead to a date for trial.

"I'm waiting. I'm still waiting," commented the mother, who has been waiting almost a year and a half for the case to be heard.

The Ontario Ministry of Labour laid charges against Esquire Canada Inc. following the Nov. 8, 1999 blast that took the life of an employee.

The Port Robinson company, which manufactured caps for toy guns, is facing five provincial charges under the Occupational Health and Safety Act.

Robyn Lafleur, 37, was caught in an explosion at the factory shortly after she began her morning shift. After receiving numerous life-threatening injuries, Lafleur died at the Hamilton General Hospital 10 days later.

Federal charges against Esquire Canada Inc. will be addressed at the Superior Court of Justice in Welland on March 28.

CAMPUS COVERAGE

India has worst earthquake to hit since 1956

By NAUMAN FAROOQ
Staff Writer

The earth literally shook and caused a catastrophe for many in India.

On Jan. 26, India's Republic Day holiday, the worst earthquake in the country's history since 1956 hit. The earthquake measured 7.9.

An earthquake is described by Natural Resources Canada as "the sudden release of stored elastic energy caused by the sudden fracture and movement of rocks along a fault. Some of the energy released is in the form of seismic waves that cause the ground to shake."

Seeing the devastation caused by the earthquake, a student from India at Niagara College in Welland has decided to help her fellow countrymen in need.

Jyoti Sehti, 24, who is from the city of New Delhi in India, is living in Niagara Falls and is a second-year student in the Early Childhood Education program.

"When I saw the pictures, I wanted to help," said Sehti. "I just want everyone to pitch in." Taking the initiative, she has placed money collection boxes throughout the community.

She says she doesn't know how much money has been collected so far because she hasn't retrieved the boxes yet, but once that is done, she will take the money to the

Niagara Hindu Temple and they will send the money to India Children Cultural Donation Charity in Gujarat, India.

The areas worst hit by the earthquake are Ahmedabad, Bhuj, Gujarat and the earthquake's epicentre around the Rann of Kutch, an area bordering Pakistan. The earthquake also affected some parts of Pakistan including Hyderabad, but damage was minimal.

CNN reported more than 375 people are feared dead because of the earthquake.

Gujarat's Home Minister Haren Pandya is quoted by the Associated Press as saying, "One hundred buildings had collapsed in Gujarat. There were also reports of mine cave-ins, train derailments, broken water pipes and downed power and phone lines. The army has been called in to dig the rubble."

Sehti said, "Please give generously. I think we can all help. They (people in India) are really in need (of help)."

She has set donation boxes at the Learning Resource Centre at the college's Welland campus, college bookstore, student services and the multi-cultural centre at the Welland campus.

College Job Centre organizes an executive chef showcase

By HEIDI MORRISON
Staff Writer

Line 'em up. She's ready to cook.

Christine Chamberlain, executive chef of President's Choice, put on a major food demonstration at the Maid of the Mist campus on Feb. 12.

'It's a great way to work on their speaking skills, because in this industry, you have to have that.' —Heather Smith

The sign-up event was for "students who go to Zehrs stores and run live in-store demonstrations on store floors," says Chamberlain, 38.

Running the live shows is a paid position, and counts toward the culinary students' hours for their apprenticeship and co-op requirements.

The students work "almost every weekend, for seven hours over a two-day period," she says. "It gives them a chance to network and I am a firm believer in networking."

Chamberlain says the event was beneficial because it gave students a chance to see another aspect of the culinary world.

The event was organized through The Job Centre at the campus. The majority of the students participating were first-year students.

"It's a great way to work on their speaking skills, because in this industry, you have to have that," says Heather Smith, Job Centre consultant.

Christine Chamberlain gives a food demonstration to students at the Maid of the Mist Centre.
Photo by Heidi Morrison

Help needed

The Ontario Community Newspapers Association wants to know . . .
. . Where are they now?

The 2000 recipients of the Ontario Junior Citizen of the Year Award will be the 20th group of young people who have been recognized for their outstanding achievements by the OCNA and its member papers.

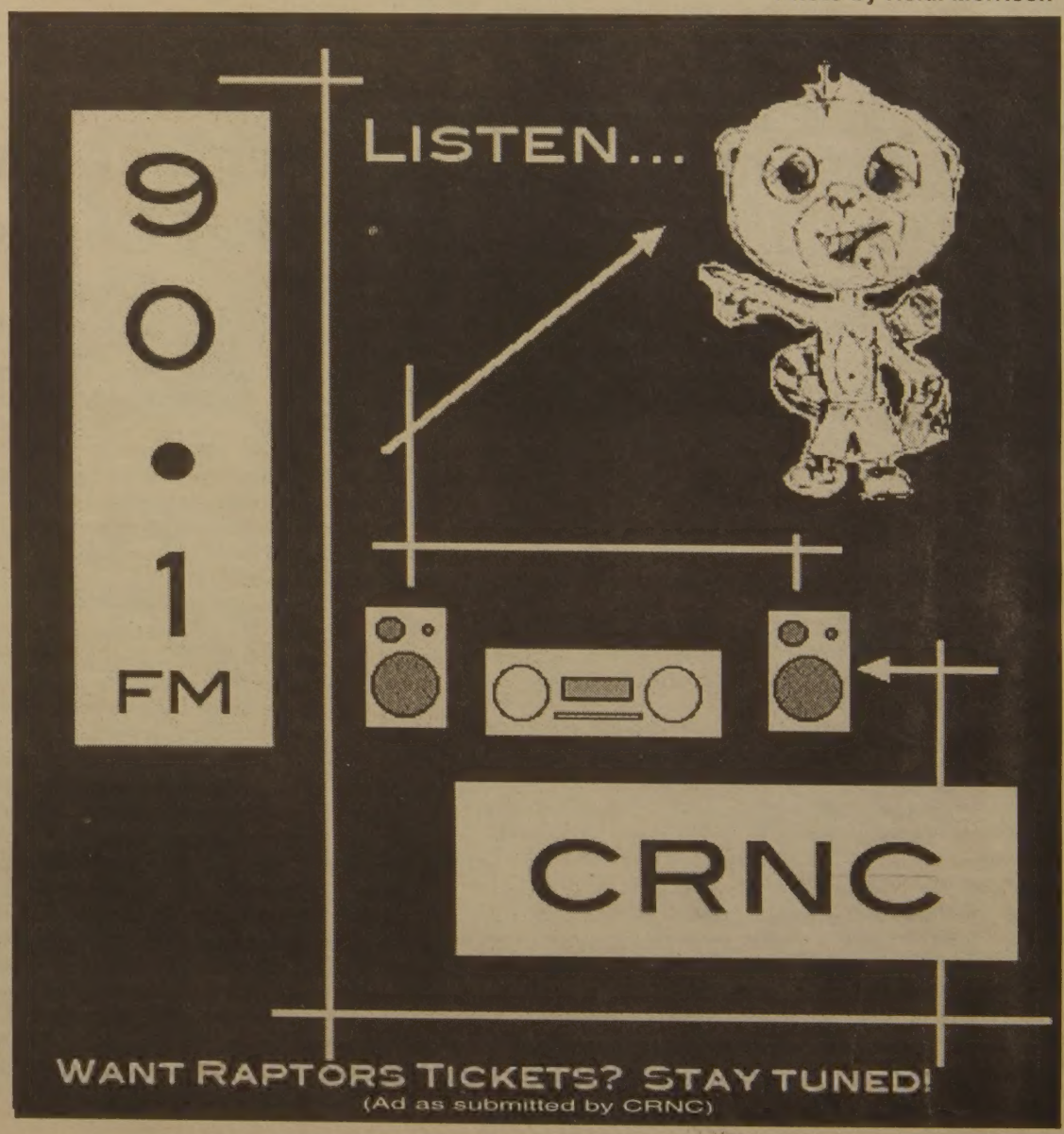
Over the past 20 years more than 2,300 nominations from across Ontario will have been reviewed, with 250 individual and 16 group awards having been presented.
All 2,300 nominees have been recognized with a certificate.
It's a program we can all be proud of supporting!

The 2000 recipients will be presented with their awards at the Spring Convention in April, 2001.
We want to mark the 20th Anniversary of the program with some special events.

To help us with this, if you know a past recipient of the OJCY Award, we'd love to know where they are and what they've been doing over the years.

(Because some reipients were overcoming serious illness when they received their award, please be sensitive when making these enquiries).

Please contact Elaine Wade at the OCNA
elaine.wade@ocna.org



(Ad as submitted by CRNC)

ENTERTAINMENT

Artisans display age-old Canadian heritage

By PAUL FINELLI
Staff Writer

A new show at the St. Catharines Museum is sure to delight with its age-old artistans' showcase. The latest travelling exhibit, From the Hands of a Master: Traditions Revealed by Contemporary Artisans, opened on Sunday, Feb. 19 and continues through April 29.

Using antique and contemporary artifacts, the exhibit pays homage to artisans and features eight traditional artisan trades that Canada Post commemorated in 1999 stamps. Each of the stamps were represented in the museum's main gallery through blowup quilted portraits by artist Ashton Potter, of Guelph. The trades are oyster farming, instrument making, weaving, quilting, iron working, glass blowing, leatherworking and bookbinding.

The exhibit highlights the continuity of artistic traditions, showing parallels between the old and the new crafts. Visitors can admire, for example, a quilt made in 1825 and a modern one, and a glass-protected 18th-century wine bottle and a recent glasswork.

The travelling exhibition was produced by the Societé internationales des enterprises Economusée, a Montreal-based private business network covering a variety of fields and trades, in collaboration with the Canadian Postal Museum, and with the financial support of Canadian Heritage and Canada Post.

A flurry of guests attended the opening in the museum's Burgoyne Room where local artisans and collectors demonstrated their crafts and collectibles, such as miniatures, model boats and airplanes, and handmade teddy bears.

The exhibit there was officially introduced in a 20-minute Heritage Day ceremony attended by about 70 people, including local politicians.

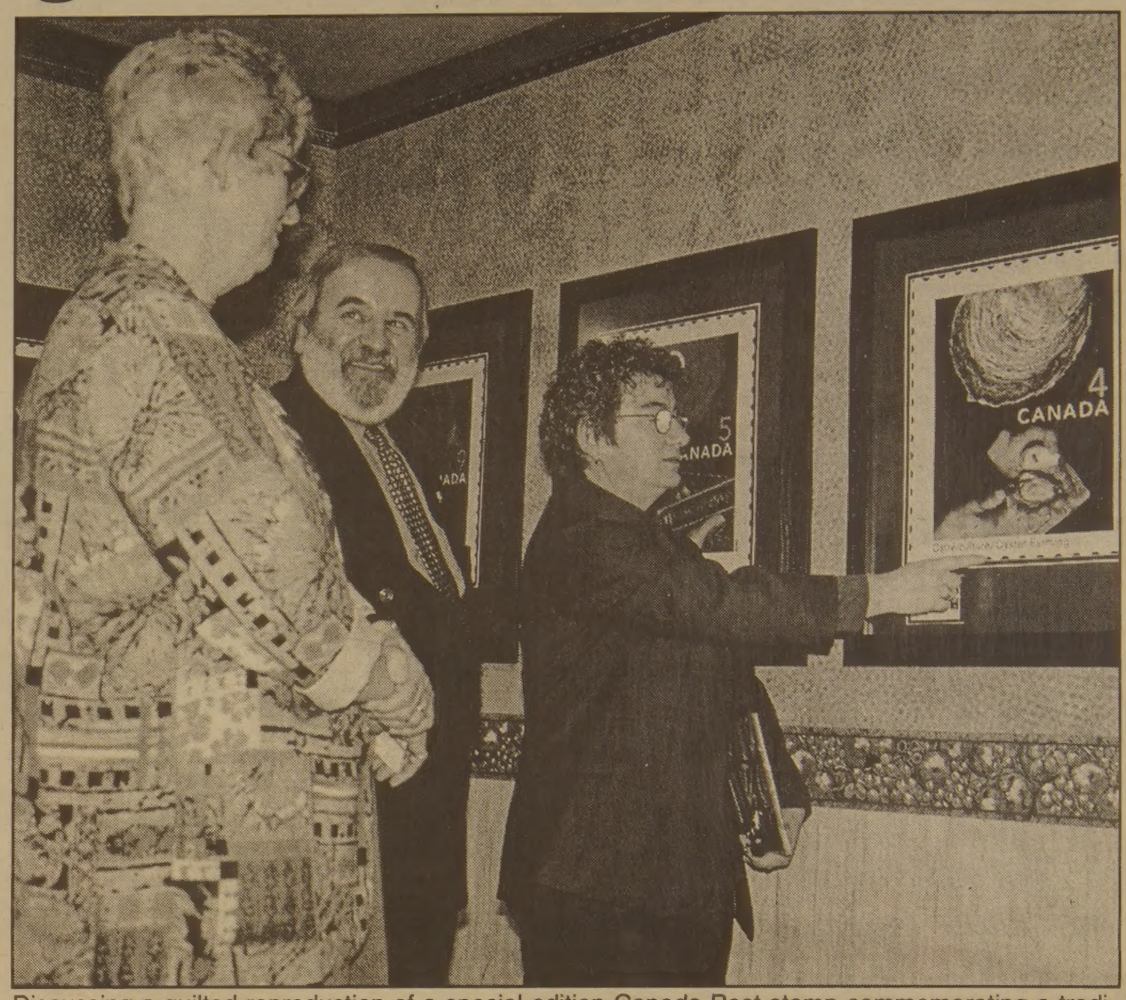
Councillor Wendy Patriquin, representing St. Catharines Mayor Tim Rigby, praised the exhibit. "I think it's really important to focus on those kinds of skills and to pass them along to future generations so that some of the skills and things that people acquire are not lost and that we can all enjoy the kinds of talents that people here have displayed."

"The museum is a wonderful place in which to share our heritage," enthused St. Catharines Liberal MPP Jim Bradley. "(As Canadians) we're people, who, by our very nature, seem to be quite modest about our accomplishments. So when we focus attention on anything that is about our heritage, about the talents of people in our various communities, that's most appropriate."

"I would like to thank the staff of the St. Catharines Museum for their dedication and their work in bringing this exhibit in this city. I sincerely hope that a great number of people will visit it and learn more about our Canadian artisans' craft," exclaimed Raynald Turgeon, director of territorial development for Economusée.

Susan Melville, the museum's curator of education and communications, later shared Turgeon's excitement for the city being the first chosen outside of Hull, Que., to feature the exhibit on its "trans-Canada tour," adding, "We're particularly proud of that." She said she hopes the show will draw countless people during its six-week venue, including a swarm of children during their March break.

Augmenting the exhibit were assorted quilts on loan from the Waterloo and Area Quilt Festival based in St. Clements, Ont. Also featured was the quilt and needlework of Donna Ford, a museum volunteer of St. Catharines, and Lyn Roberts, of Fonthill, trained in a handstitching called needlepainting. Both their works were on display to highlight Black History Month, which was celebrated in February across Ontario.



Discussing a quilted reproduction of a special-edition Canada Post stamp commemorating a traditional artisan trade are Caroline Dysar, (left), chair of the Waterloo and County Area Quilt Festival, Raynald Turgeon, director of territorial development for Economusée, and Vicki Hake, Canada Post senior commerical sales representative for St. Catharines area.

Photo by Paul Finelli

Canadian poet attends reading at Brock University

By KANDIS THORSBY
Staff Writer

Matt Robinson, a 20-something PhD student, has served poetic justice in creative writing at the University of New Brunswick in Fredericton, N.B.

Robinson, one of Canada's new young poets, took part in a reading at Brock University, in St. Catharines, on Feb. 8, from his first book-length collection, A Ruckus of Awkward Stacking.

His work has been featured on CBC Radio and television and he is a winner of the 1999 Petra Kenney Memorial International Poetry Prize.

Besides his acclaimed awards, Robinson's poetry, in English, elicits one's active participation from relating shards of broken glass to the remnants of a day gone wrong, to the first time the absurdity of growing up hits an adolescent on a random day at the hockey rink.

Though we all go through these things and deal with them in separate ways, Robinson's writing ability is the barometer of talent. His expressive words reach one on a day of searching for a final "welcome to the club," everyone has been there or will be eventually.

His ability and intelligent way of speaking awed the listeners in the conference room.

Imagine sitting once again in your grandfather's lap, listening for the first time, to one of his fables, taking you back to that moment in time when you sat motionless, warm, secure and quiet, just listening for the soft words of wisdom and adventure to fall from his lips.

As I sat in the uncomfortable seats on the 13th floor's Alumni Lounge, of Brock University tower, this is where I was taken; back to the day of "firsts" so to speak, with the description and splurge of emotional babble we call poetry.

Robinson's poetry and humour took me back. In view of his young age, I wish him good luck with his thesis and poetry to come.

For those who share a love of poetry his book is available at Coles.

Everyone loves Barenaked rock 'n' roll at Copps Coliseum in Hamilton

By RYAN McLAUGHLIN
Staff Writer

Copps Coliseum in Hamilton shook, rattled and rolled to the sound of the Barenaked Ladies on Feb. 20.

The band that everyone can't help but love captured the ears of the crowd with goofy hip-hop parodies, operatic renditions and, of course, all their 'can't get this song out of my head' hits.

The show kicked off with an extremely rewarding performance by Canadian siren Chantal Kreviazuk. She graced the stage with presence, skill and a quality of sound that was a perfect mirror of her recorded counterpart.

Cruising through song after song from her two hit LPs **Colour Moving and Still** and **Under These Rocks and Stones**, Kreviazuk showed an eager crowd that she could produce live as well as on CD. It won't be a surprise if the not so distant future affords her the headline of the marquee rather than the note below.

After a 45-minute presentation, she left the stage and darkness filled the auditorium.

Silently and covertly, two large balloons began to hover in the darkness. In a blast of video screens and lights, a heavenly doorway opened in the middle of the stage and the Barenaked Ladies burst out to the deafening applause of their fans.

A mixed crowd of diehard BNL fans, parents taking their kids, and kids wondering where the heck they are, filled all but a few of the seats of the 19,000 capacity arena.

The Ladies played a good two-hour set with an eclectic selection of hits and various crowd-pleasing theatrics. Songs ranging from nostalgia-inducing *Brian Wilson*, and *Old Apartment*, to recent singles *Too Little Too Late*, and *Pinch Me*, the band commanded the stage with confidence and peonage. The Ladies personalized the show with free-style rhyme from Ed Robertson, and the drum solo that claims not to be a drum solo by drummer Tyler Stewart, as well as a militant-esque rendition of Britney Spears' *Oops, I Did It Again* by Kevin Hearn, the band's keyboardist.

On this, the first show of their first Canadian tour in over five years, it was not at all evident that in 24 hours they would be waiting to hear their names called at the 43rd Annual Grammy Awards. The band was nominated in the category of Best Pop Performance by a Duo or Group With Vocal for their single, *Pinch Me*; unfortunately, they were beaten out by Steely Dan.

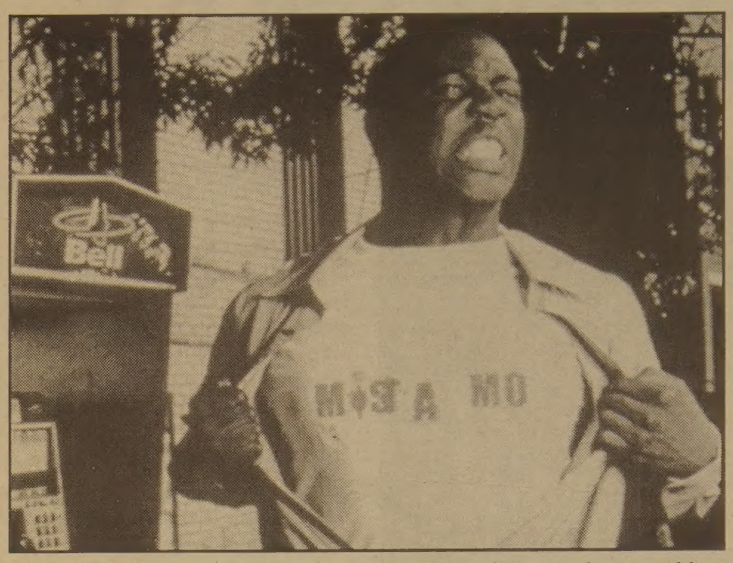
The show closed and the crowd cheered for an encore. With that, they took to the stage again and performed a few more songs, and the band seemed to want to give a little more even after that.

Never disappointing, the band returned to the cries of the crowd for a second encore, and there was pump and power right until the end.

When the lights came up a sense of sadness flowed over the crowd as they began to realize that they would now have to leave. Trusting in their memories to capture the amazing performance, the crowd shuffled out of Copps with tunes still echoing in their heads and as a testament to BNL, likely to continue to echo there for days to come.

ENTERTAINMENT

Showcase of hot comedians to appear at After Hours



Morgan Smith a.k.a. Mista Mo, from Buzz, is to perform at After Hours.

Submitted photo

By STEPHEN D'ORAZIO
Staff Writer

This will not be your average Comedy Night.

The Comedy Network will be having a showcase of some of their hottest comedians March 14, at the After Hours pub at the Welland campus.

In addition to the performances of Sean Tweedley, Greg Eckler and Mista Mo (Morgan Smith), the first 100 people through the doors will receive a prize package.

Tweedley, best known for his starring role on The Comedy Network series The Warm-up Show, has been touring around Canada and the United States for many years.

Tweedley is also a writer/sketch producer for Open Mike with Mike Bullard, and has appeared with Bullard on his Unplugged and On Tour cross-country stand-up tour.

Eckler, a stand-up comedian for many years, has been on Open Mike with Mike Bullard in various sketches.

Smith, known as Mista Mo on The Comedy Network's new show Buzz, began his performing career when his father, a minister, put Smith in the church choir.

He continues to use music in his act, and with his funk-a-billy rock-star character, Country Mo Dee, on Buzz.

On March 28, special guest host Ben Guyatt of Comedy at Club 54 will be at Comedy Night at the After Hours pub.

Sean Tweedley, Comedy Network comedian, is performing on March 14.

Submitted photo

Molson's Cheap Date coming to After Hours pub March 23

By STEPHEN D'ORAZIO
Staff Writer

Molson's Cheap Date is returning to Niagara College, but you have to win to get in.

On Friday, March 23, some lucky students will be at the After Hours pub at the Niagara College Welland campus, watching a Canadian rock band. Doors will open at 8 p.m.

The band has been confirmed, but the only information available is that the band is a gold selling Canadian group that has won a Juno Award.

Past performers have been Edwin and j. englishman, Big Sugar and Ashley MacIsaac.

Tickets can be won for the event at Comedy Night at After Hours, at Alexander Davidson's, and through various contests with The Heat, campus radio 91.1 FM, and through the *Niagara News*.

To get the tickets you must answer two skill-testing questions at exactly 3 p.m. today. Please come to the newsroom at S212 and ask for Gary Erb. The first five people to answer correctly get a pair of tickets each.

Niagara College's own talent will be represented at Molson's Cheap Date. The opening act this year will be the winner of Niagara College's Battle of the Bands.

College Battle of the Bands on March 19, your chance to win $500 recording time

By STEPHEN D'ORAZIO
Staff Writer

Attention all Niagara College musicians: now is your chance to live out your dream and be a rock star . . . well at least for one night.

Niagara College will be hosting its fifth annual Battle of the Bands at the After Hours Pub at the Welland campus on Monday, March 19.

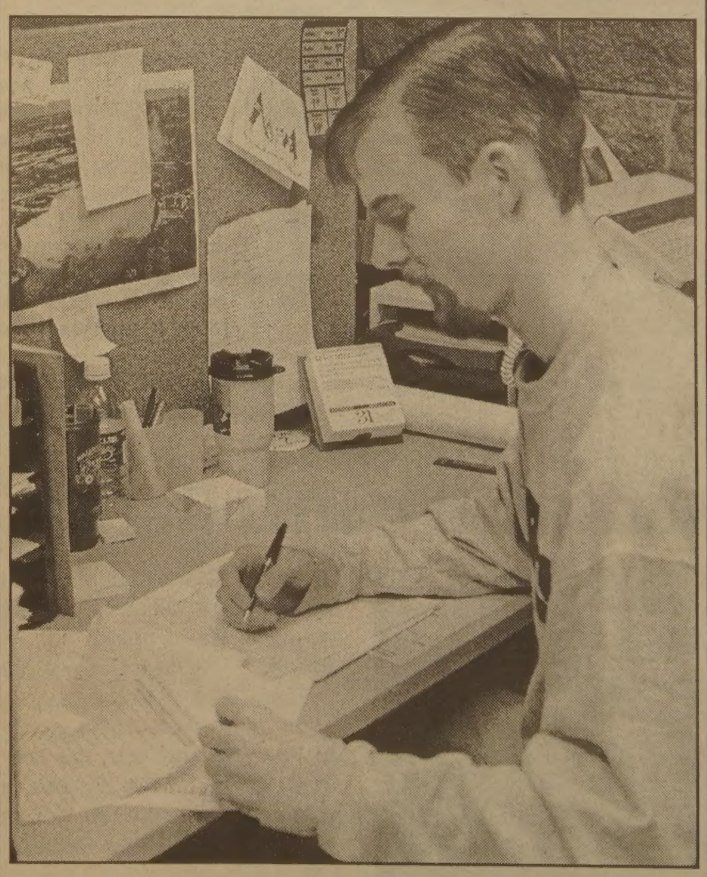
Last year's winner, 10 Dollars Happier, went on to win the Campus New Music Search giving them the opportunity to showcase at the Canadian Organization of Campus Activities. This allowed them to play for the entertainment buyers for all college and university campuses.

This year's first place winner will receive $500 of recording time, be the opening slot for Molson's Cheap Date, and represent Niagara College at the Campus Music Search finals.

Applications are available in the Student Administrative Council office or at the pub. Rules and regulations are included with the application.

The meeting for all bands is on Tuesday, March 13, at 4 p.m. at the After Hours pub.

More activities to come...



Jeremy Walls, vice-president internal affairs, for Student Administrative Council at the Maid of the Mist Centre in Niagara Falls, plans activities for students.

Photo by Heidi Morrison

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SPORTS

Men's volleyball team seeks victory in B.C.

Continued from page 1

The scores clearly displayed Niagara's dominance over Loyalist. The first two were major blowouts, as they ended in scores of 25-20 and 25-12. However, Game three was very close, yet the Knights won 30-28. "It was a nail-biter in the end, but we pulled it out and just showed everybody we can beat the best," says 6' 8" middle Shawn Barbisan. "We just buckled down and we were all heart."

Although Niagara was playing away from home, a solid number of loyal fans followed the team to Seneca. Several members of the women's volleyball team banged on pots and pans, while screaming vehemently towards the Lancers. Coaches Carolyn Welden and Laura Chatterton were present that Saturday, as were players Kelly Davies, Ginni Llord and Thais Aun.

Numerous friends and family sat nervously within the stands, as head coach Blair Cudmore sent out his regular lineup to start the match. The Knights exited the locker room looking serious, focused and energized. Bentley says the guys talked privately before the final match, without their coaches.

"They went back into the locker room to get a little mental focus and came out on fire," says Bentley. "This is the best I've seen them play."

Throughout the entire match, Niagara showed good hustle, getting all the digs and serving perfectly. "They had confidence in their abilities and it paid off in the end," says Bentley.

"We came in thinking we were going to beat them three straight and we did," says 22-year-old Barbisan. The team's tallest player attributes the third game deterioration to over-confidence. "We were kind of high on ourselves near the end."

Almost every time the Knights needed a sure thing, they would set the ball to rightside Graeme Gaunt. Loyalist was incapable of stopping his powerful, well-placed smashes. As a result of his outstanding performance during the tournament, Gaunt was named Ontario's Most Valuable Player.

There are certain players on Niagara's roster that will undoubtedly cherish this OCAA title for a long time. Veteran Bill Lang, power/middle/setter, and rookie Cory Lahey, setter/power, won't be back for another season.

"It (winning this title in my final year) feels absolutely amazing," says Lang, adding, "there's not a better feeling. It's the best thing on earth."

When April rolls around the corner, Lang will be saying goodbye to Niagara, as he hopes to be graduating from the Correctional Worker program this spring. The 6' 6" native of Ottawa, Ont., says the Knights won with "pure heart" and determination. "It's like when a shark smells blood, it attacks. I think we smelled it."

After the match was over and the awards had been received, Lang was still shaking with excitement. "This team has gone through so much and it's nice ending on top," he says. "It's a nice feeling to be No. 1."

Following knee surgery at the beginning of the season, Lahey rebounded to have himself a memorable year. Nonetheless, the 2000-01 season marks the fourth and final year of volleyball eligibility for Lahey. With the assistance of his teammates, Lahey saved his best performance for last.

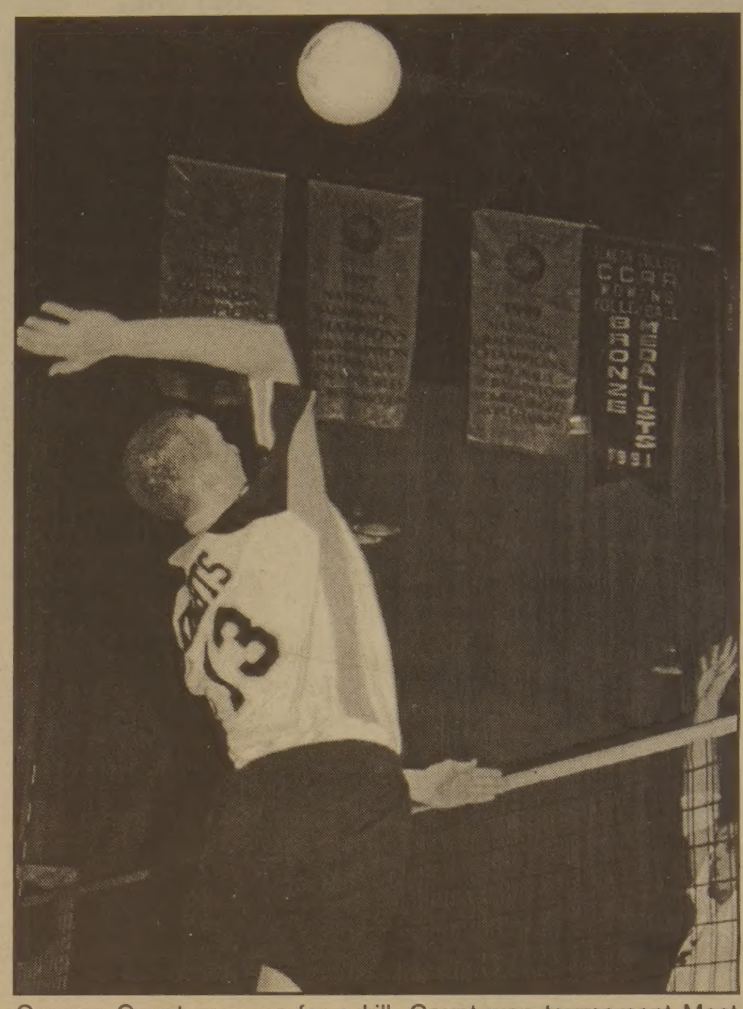
"For myself and a few other guys this is our last shot. I'm done playing indoor after this," he says. "Yeah, I guess you do save the best for last."

This is the second OCAA title for Lahey. He won a previous provincial gold medal with Oshawa's Durham College. When the third game started to slip from the Knights' hands, Lahey says the team's experience took charge. "I've been through it and I know how to battle through those tough times when it's close. We wanted this really, really bad and we didn't want anyone to stand in our way."

Lahey, 24, who hails from Chatham, Ont., says he did not wish to play another game. "It's a long tournament. Seneca did get in our way, but we battled through that."

Along with the achievement of his second OCAA title, Lahey joined Gunnell in the tournament's all-star selection. Lahey says it's "great" if someone recognized that he had a good tournament, but he only plays hard to help his team. "It feels great. It surprised the heck out of me though, because I've never won an all-star (award) in my life."

In order to reach the gold medal match, Niagara had to overcome an unexpected challenge from the Seneca Sting. The hosts had upset Etobicoke's Humber College in the first round, and were vying for another shocker during the second round. It took all five games for the Knights to beat the Sting. The scores were 25-22, 24-26, 25-16, 22-25 and 16-14. "In earlier games we were beating the hell out of them, but we let them come back and they beat us in game four," says Gunnell. "We kind of got pissed off."



Graeme Gaunt goes up for a kill. Gaunt won tournament Most Valuable Player for the provincials.

Photo by Joël D. Herrington

As a result, Niagara focused hard on their match versus Loyalist and watched videotape of their upcoming opponents. "We knew what we had to do to beat them and went out and did it," says Gunnell.

Niagara played Royal Military College (RMC) of Kingston, Ont., during the first round of volleyball. In a tournament where everybody was looking to knock off the country's third ranked volleyball team, Niagara chose not to sympathize with their opponents. The Knights smoked RMC in four games. The scores were 21-25, 25-16, 25-21 and 25-16.

The utter dominance and success for Niagara comes as no surprise to Lang. "When we play our game, there's very few teams in the country that can play with us. We're too big, too strong."

Now that the Knights have defended their OCAA title, they have travelled to Okanagan University College, in Kelowna, B.C., for the Canadian Colleges Athletic Association (CCAA) Championship.

Last year, the CCAA was held in Grand Prairie, Alta., where Niagara barely eluded a medal. The Knights were unsuccessful in the bronze medal match finishing in fourth place. Regardless of the loss, they proved to Canada and to themselves that Niagara College can compete with anyone. "We have a better chance of getting a medal this year," says Barbisan.

As Barbisan pointed out, the Knights have a good chance of bringing home a medal this year. They have a larger and deeper roster, and some valuable CCAA experience. Due to the undefeated season and OCAA playoff, Niagara will enter the nationals with a third place ranking.

"We're probably going into the nationals ranked third, so we'll probably have a nice draw the first two games," says Lang. "Our goal is a medal in the nationals. We came so close last year and this year we just want a taste."

Gunnell says the high seeding will work to their advantage, since they'll likely play a weaker team in the opening round. The Knights will battle for the gold, but any medal will be satisfactory, says Gunnell.

Bentley agrees with his captain and says he looks forward to having a good seeding going into the nationals. "Hopefully we'll do a couple upsets and come back home with a medal."

The idea of winning a national championship has been brewing in the Knights' locker room for the whole season. During one of the team's first meetings, Lahey told his teammates he wanted to win the CCAA title before the end of his varsity career. "That is my ultimate goal," he says. "If we do (win a medal), great, because that's a national medal and I would feel very proud."

Even if the Knights do not manage to bring back a gold, silver or bronze medal, their season will remain embedded in Niagara College history. Not only did they post an undefeated season, but also they did so with a roster full of rookies. Cudmore and Bentley have 10 athletes who are playing their first year as a Knight. A combination of good coaching, teamwork, perseverance and undeniable talent has led our men's volleyball to where they are today. "I love this team," says Lahey. "This is the best team I've been on. The best group of guys and I had fun this year."The road to gold started yesterday for the Knights. The CCAA Championship is a three-day tournament, which involves the country's eight best college volleyball teams.

Women's basketball team end season with cancellation

By AARON WILSON
Staff Writer

The Niagara Knights women's basketball team could not finish its season out.

Niagara was to play Barrie's Georgian College on Feb. 23, but because of bad weather the game was cancelled.

This is a game had Niagara won it could have put them in seventh place in the standings, but they will stay at eighth in the division.

Niagara vastly improved from last year's season, finishing with four wins and 11 defeats on the season and in the playoff hunt for most of the year.

Head coach Georgie Groat says she is "disappointed, they practiced all week for this game, and there is no finality to the season."

Groat says she felt the second half of the season the team played "well but could have done better, I thought we peaked a little late."

Groat says this season was "a great rebuilding year," and she can't wait till next year.

"With additions coming in next year we hope to do well in the playoffs."

Candace Oxford, captain for the Niagara Knights, saves the ball from going out of bounds against Keuka College. Due to to the cancellation of the Georgian game on Feb. 23, this was the final home game for the Knights, a home game against Keuka College, of New York State on Feb. 10.

Photo by Aaron Wilson

SPORTS

Women's soccer team finish tournament 3-1

By BROOKE DREDGE
Staff Writer

Coming off a rough loss at the Conestoga College Invitational in Kitchener, the Niagara College women's indoor soccer team bounced back at the George Brown Invitational in Scarborough, on Feb. 10 with a 3-1 finish.

Coach Louie DiLorenzo had only praise for his team and the members' improvement from one tournament to another.

"I am proud of the whole team. We have really improved from our first tournament and we played well," DiLorenzo said.

"We were prepared physically going into the tournament, but strategically we needed more preparation. We played well in the first three games, and in the final game we were just disorganized," he added. "We didn't play as a team but rather individually."

DiLorenzo said the team still has to work on defensive and offensive tactics.

"We improved both our offense and defensive a little bit (more) than from our first tournament, but not as much as I wanted to."

Lead scorers include Yvonne Stevens, (forward), 29, of St. Catharines, a first-year student in the Police Foundations program, came through with a goal and two assists in the tournament. Teammates Tiffany Cowan, (defence), 19, of Russell, Ont., a second-year student in the Recreation and Leisure Services program, trailed her with one goal, and goalie Dana MacDonald, 22, of Port Colborne, a first-year student in the Correctional Worker program, scored a free kick goal.

"Yvonne was strong on forward. Tiffany was strong on our defense line and Dana made about 10 stops each game. Dana was outstanding throughout the entire tournament. If I could chose anyone to be our MVP (Most Valuable Player) again, it would be she. She is a standout athlete and she led the team to a very good tournament, both motivationally and as a leader," he added.

"(The) girls were pleased to have done so well, and they too want to work on their offensive plays and want to learn to work more as a team and together. They hope to be more than prepared for the next tournament because they have their sights set on bringing home the gold," he said.

Next for the women's team will be their final tournament at Mohawk College in Hamilton this weekend, where they will be vying for a spot to qualify for the regionals.

"The good thing about this tournament is that it is just college teams. We have in the past played a lot of club teams, and we have played fairly well against the teams we are facing in Hamilton," DiLorenzo said.

He said if the women qualified for regionals they would also go to the Ontario Colleges Athletic Association championship on March 23 and 24 at Windsor's St. Clair College.

"The girls are excited about regionals. Two years we didn't come close, and last year we were one game short of qualifying, which was the best in the team's and college's history, and this year if we have our key players and we can perform to our full ability, we have a good chance of going all the way. We are going to go into the tournament with the same strategy we have always had and, hopefully, we can make it happen," said DiLorenzo.

Men's Knights beat St. Clair

By AARON WILSON
Staff Writer

The Niagara Knights basketball team is ending the season on a winning note. It's been a long season that ended in heartbreak, but the Knights came out and showed heart.

Niagara avenged an earlier loss to St. Clair College, of Windsor, by winning 91-66, on Feb. 17. Niagara was up by four at halftime, but exploded in the second half defeating St. Clair by 21 in the second half. This win set the Knights' record at 5-7.

Landen Walsh, rookie point guard, shoots a jumper against St. Clair College.

Photo by Aaron Wilson

Haldon Hutchinson, captain, scored a game high with 24 points. "At halftime we wanted to blow them out, so we picked up the intensity, and came out strong in the second half."

Ernell Ellis, added 22 points. Ellis says the team showed "heart for not rolling down. We showed a lot of patience in the second half, especially from the first, we were putting up wild shots."

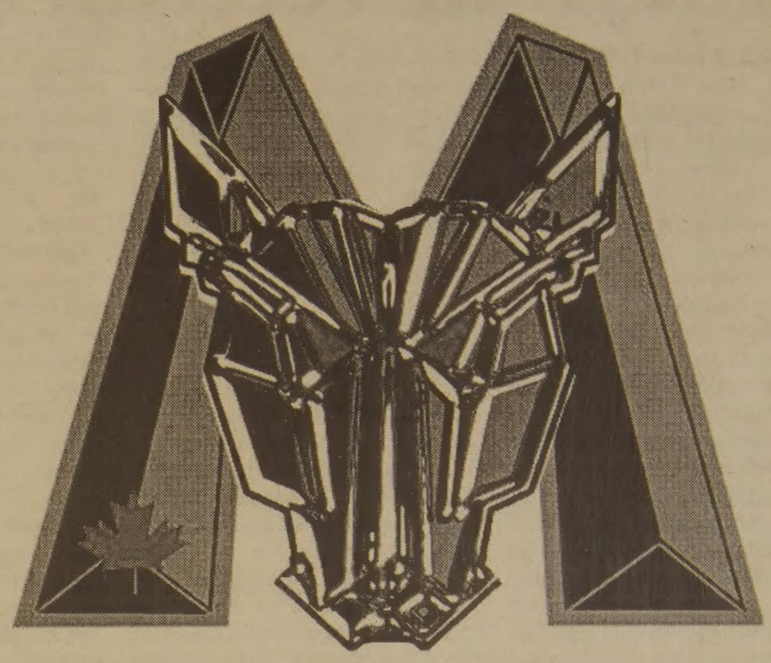
For some of the players this could be the last time you see them in a Niagara uniform.

Aaron Paisley, forward, scored 10 points and says he might come back. "I'm not sure if I will come back, and if I come back it would be for basketball."

Paisley says the team played well. "It was a real physical game. We did a good job of running the floor, and they (St. Clair) couldn't handle, they broke down."

Curtis Francis scored 15 points, and says he is not sure if he will come back next year. Francis says he thought the team played well. "It was a great team effort I thought our starting line was a balanced attack."

Coach Ralph Nero says, "Our team played with a lot of character, they played a great basketball game."



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SPORTS

Volleyball veteran shares life experiences

By JOËL D. HERRINGTON
Staff Writer

From the mean streets in Ottawa to the polished floorboards of Niagara College's gymnasium, Niagara Knight Bill Lang has striven to improve himself, on and off the court.

The 24-year-old is a three-year veteran of the college's men's volleyball team, which recently won its second successive Ontario Colleges Athletic Association (OCAA) championship. A team that is competing for the national title in Kelowna, B.C., while you read this profile.

Either way, this feature isn't all about the team, it's about Bill. He invaded the college in September of 1998, the first year of his illustrious career as a Knight. Before embracing the Niagara Region, Bill had to struggle and survive through a tough stretch of his teenage and young adult life.

Lang was born and raised in the nation capitol's southern extremity, right near Walkley Road and Hetherington Avenue. This particular area is considered a troublesome neighbourhood, says Lang. During his few years at Ridgemont High School, Lang and his friends were prone to pushing the law. "I had some legal problems when I was younger."

However, with most adolescents of that age, the good comes with the bad. Bill's most memorable moment in high school was cherishing a year as vice-president of student body. "Actually, I won presidency. But I stepped down because I really didn't believe that I was good enough for president," he says. The 1995-96 "campaign of vote for Bill" ended in true political fashion. "It came to the point that people would vote for me just because of who I was."

After graduating from high school in 1996, Lang chose to pursue his post-secondary education at his hometown college of Algonquin. In a year and one half, Lang played football and volleyball for the Algonquin Thunder. Unfortunately for Lang, the bad luck had followed him to college. "I got into some discrepancies with the athletic director." Subsequently, Lang left the college.

When Lang had started to think that things couldn't get any worse, a fatal incident occurred among his peers. "A good friend of mine was killed in a stabbing incident at a bar," says Lang, who thinks his friend was not at the root of the problem. "It was a turning point. I didn't want to be like them anymore."

Shortly after that shocking moment, Bill decided to resume his studies at Niagara College's Welland campus. A big factor in his decision was due to the influence of Blair Cudmore and Kerby Bentley. Cudmore is the men's volleyball head coach and Bentley is his assistant. Bill and Kerby were teammates from 1998-2000 and played against each other while Bill was at Algonquin. "Kerby is one of my closest friends."

Within his final year at Algonquin, Lang met and talked with Cudmore and Bentley, at a Christmas tournament in Ottawa. "They questioned what I was doing," says Lang, who told Cudmore he would stay in touch. Eight months later, the Niagara Knights recruit Lang. "Blair found me and I came here."

Ever since his arrival at the college, Lang has been faced with nothing but positive situations. He says the past three years have made him realize that the world has more to offer than the "hood. Personally, I've grown up quite a bit. I guess I've grown up on the court as well."

Among the group of friends from his neighbourhood in Ottawa, Bill is the only one who has graduated from high school and is going to college. "I thank sports for that," he says. Throughout the turmoil and tumultuous moments Bill has endured with his friends back home, he still remains very close with them. "I love my friends to death. I go home and they're proud of me."

Prior to Lang's volleyball experience at Niagara, the middle position was all that he knew. The 6' 6" was a high jumper in high school and most volleyball coaches would use him for middle blocking and smashing. Now that Lang has had the chance to play for volleyball genius Cudmore, things have taken a brighter perspective. "I've played all five positions on the court."

Bill has played power, setter, middle, rightside and even libero (defensive specialist). The regular libero for the Knights is Cuneyt Akgol, 24, who has been Bill's teammate for the past three years.

During Bill's entire history with sports, football and volleyball has been the most predominant. Bill has played football with the Thunder, as well as club and junior football in Ottawa. "Football is my true love."

The Knights veteran used to play slot back, wide receiver and tight end and says if it wasn't for the altercation with Algonquin's Athletic Director Ken Port, he still would be playing football.

Lucky for us and the Niagara Knights volleyball team, 'Langer' chose Niagara after bailing from Algonquin. We definitely have coach Cudmore to thank for his recruitment and hospitality with Lang. "To me, he is just as good of a friend as he is a coach," says Bill, adding Cudmore has always been very approachable. Together, they have contributed to the wonderful development a Niagara College's men's volleyball program. "I've played for some good coaches, but I'd put him up at the top," says Lang, while referring to his friend as a "crafty" coach. "He's got so much knowledge of the game."

Niagara Knights power/middle Bill Lang, 24, reads the *Niagara News* outside his office in the Mackenzie building.

Photo by Joël D. Herrington

Lang is completing his final year in the Correctional Worker program, and says he interested in working with young offenders after graduation. As a result of the difficult years he spent growing up in Ottawa, Lang hopes to share his advice and perspective with troubled youth. "At least give them an opportunity to try and straighten out their lives."

Whether it's on or off the court, Bill says the team members are close to one another and get along "very" well. "Our team has always been really tight. We're all buddies," he says, adding the team's togetherness has been a relevant factor in its rise to glory. "A huge part of our success is how close we are. And the fact that we're all huge." Reinforcing this fact, it should be mentioned that the average height of these athletes is 6' 4".

Although more than 50 per cent of the team's roster are rookies, they have proven to be substantial elements in Niagara's prosperity. If he absolutely had to chose one over the others, Bill says it would be setter Brad Harreitha. "I have to give a lot of credit to Brad." Herreitha, 22, is completing his first year as a full-time setter and has managed to set the team to a 15-0 record. "Brad is on the court running the show. I'd have to give it to him."

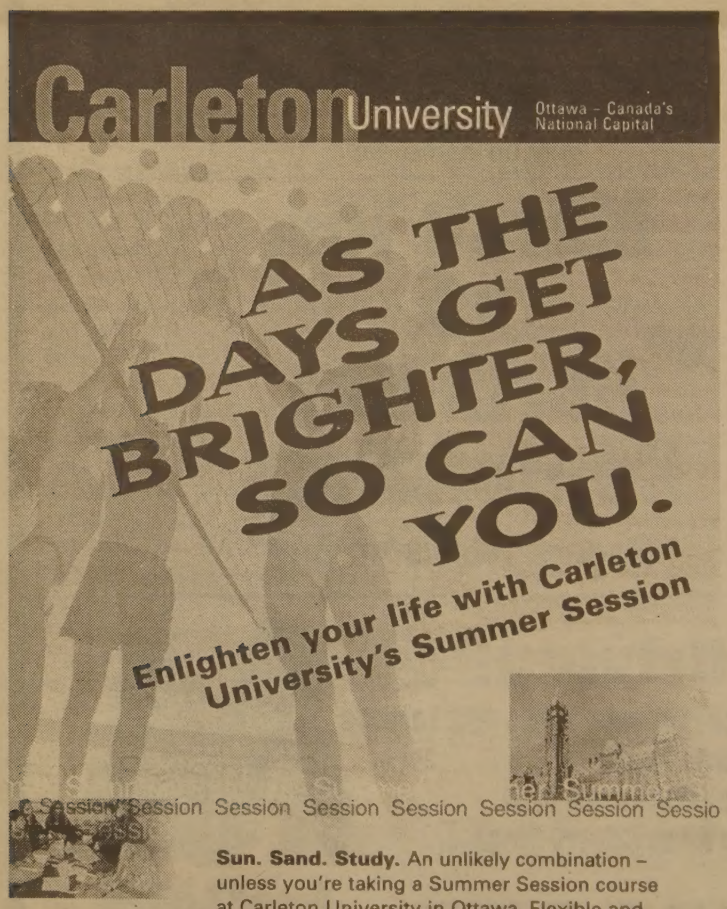
Moreover, Lang has numerous good things to say about the college. "I really like Niagara College. I like the atmosphere," he says. "I can walk around campus and it feels like home." Because of their positive influence and helpful hand, Lang says "the teachers are really great" people. "It seems like they actually care."

As a form of initiation for the rookies, the team's veterans hosted a party at the beginning of the year. The rooks had to wear dresses and diapers, and some were all given horrible haircuts. "We took them to a bar as well. We showed them off in their nice dresses," Bill says. Among every rookie, Mike King received the most types of initiations. "Mike did get it the worst. But Mike wanted it. He's such a team player that he calls for more."

Looking back on some of Bill's memorable moments in sports, he says one of his high school football games stands out. After recovering a fumble, Lang ran 75 yards for a touchdown, while his father was watching. "I remember running down the sidelines and seeing my father running down the sidelines with me, cheering me on," he says.

Even though Lang grew up in a rough neighbourhood, he says his parents and relatives were always there for him. "I wouldn't be anything without them," he says. "I had great family support." These days, Bill doesn't have a chance to visit his family in Ottawa, yet he stays in contact with them at all times. "It's not uncommon that I spend two hours talking on the phone with my mom."

Without a doubt, Lang has plenty to offer to the world of volleyball, football and young offenders. The gentle giant has embraced the college and it has done the same in return. In closing, Lang would like to tell the world one thing: "No comment."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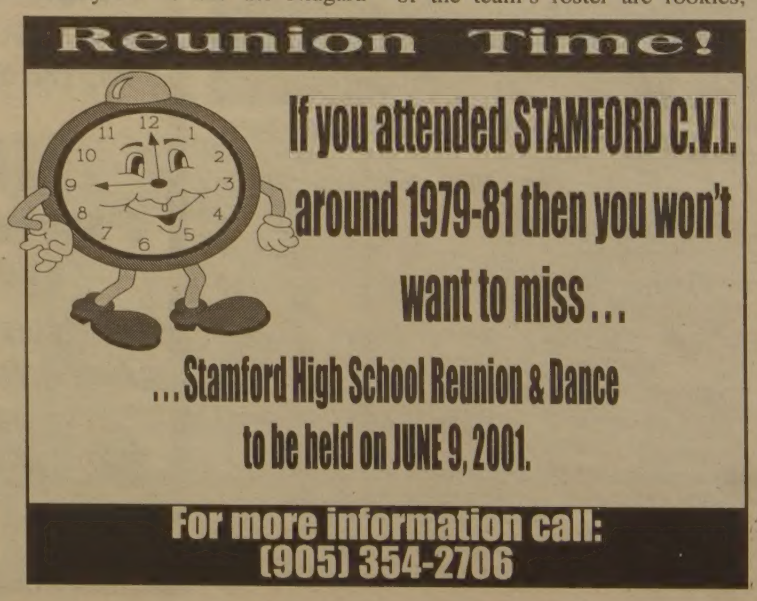
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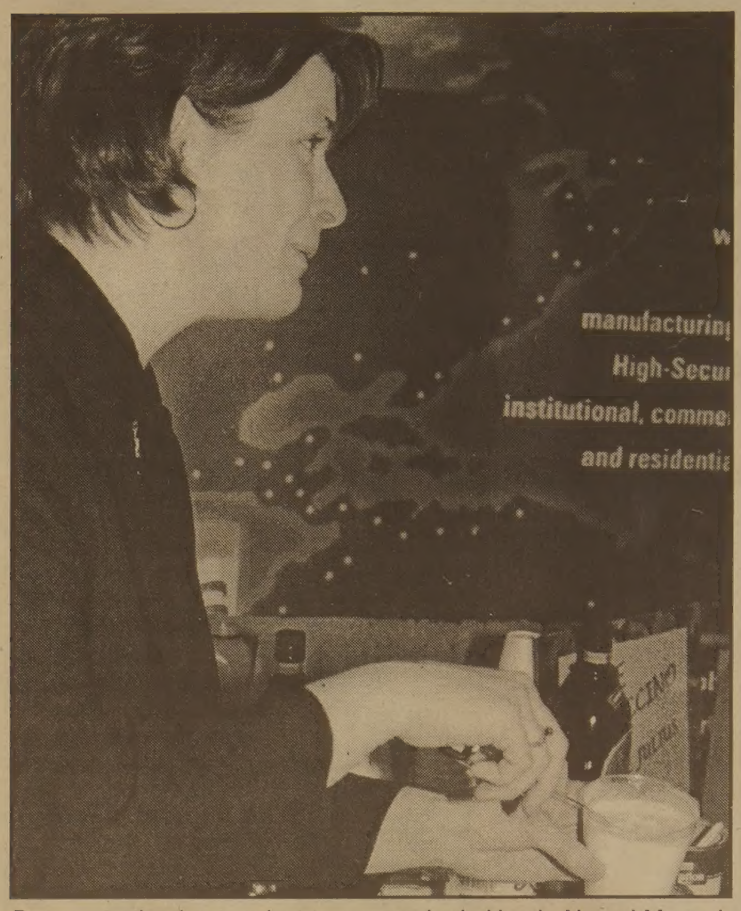


Demonstrating her product to passersby is Ursula Naomi Menzel, manager of Latte-Whip, in Oakville.

Photo by Laura T. Ricciuto

Home Expo visits Glendale

By LAURA T. RICCIUTO
Staff Writer

Free. Free. Free for all.

Niagara College's Glendale campus in Niagara-on-the-Lake was host to the Home Show and Better Living Expo on Feb. 24 and 25, which offered free admission, free massages, free reflexology treatments, free body sugaring and much more.

Whether you were looking for information on a home surveillance system, a hot tub for your backyard or even a back massage, the Expo was the place to be.

Gathering exhibitors from home renovations, lawn and garden, home security, aesthetics and health spas, the Expo offered a variety of booths to suit at least one of your "better living" needs.

"It's something the whole family can do together," said Norm Lumsden, from Niagara Falls, who attended the show with his wife, Mary, and two children, Adam and Emily.

"The (free) cost is great and we love to fill out the raffles," laughed Mary, who was entering a draw for a teddy bear.

Joyce Gidney, a visitor to the Expo from St. Catharines, said she decided to attend because they are "always doing some kind of renovations" and that she was "curious" to see if there was anything new and exciting.

As Gidney was inquiring about the "Latte-Whip" a coffee and milk frother, she commented "Wow, that's interesting. I might buy one of these, and get some early Christmas shopping done."

Many of the exhibitors agreed that the show was off to a slow start on Saturday, but picked up on Sunday.

Exhibitor David Wismer of Startronics, a loss prevention and security specialist, said the "poor" turnout was a result of the lack of signage and advertising for the Home Show and Better Living Expo.

Wismer added the small crowd allowed the opportunity for "positive customer interaction."

"Oh, I think it's just great here," said Shannon Trenaman, of Thorold, while taking advantage of the free eyebrow sugaring.

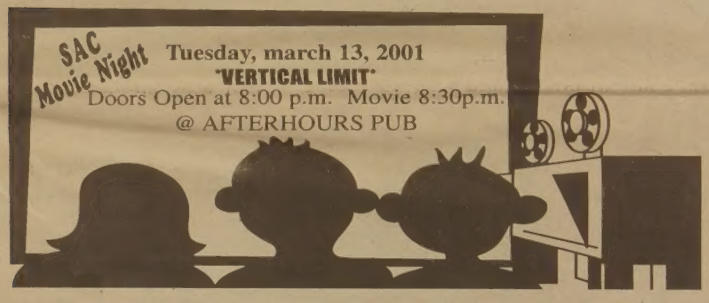
Trenaman said she only heard about the Expo when a friend who was setting up a booth invited her.

The body sugaring was just one of the complimentary health and beauty services offered by Looks Day Spa, in Welland.

Although there was no admission charge to enter the Expo, Community Care Access was accepting non-perishable food donations.

By the second and final day of the Expo, Geoff Warren, exhibit manager of Regional Trade Shows, estimated that "well over 500 pounds" of food was collected.

Warren said the final recipient of the food donations would be the United Way.



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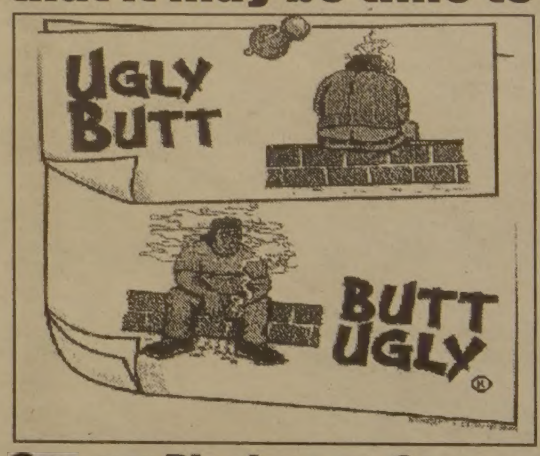

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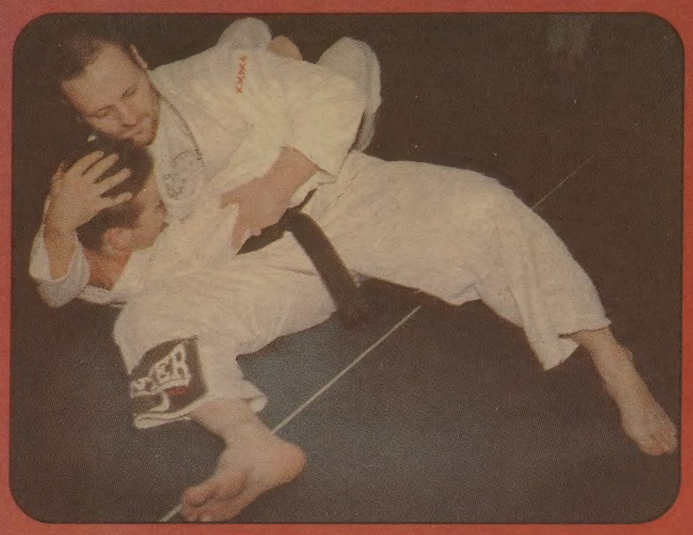
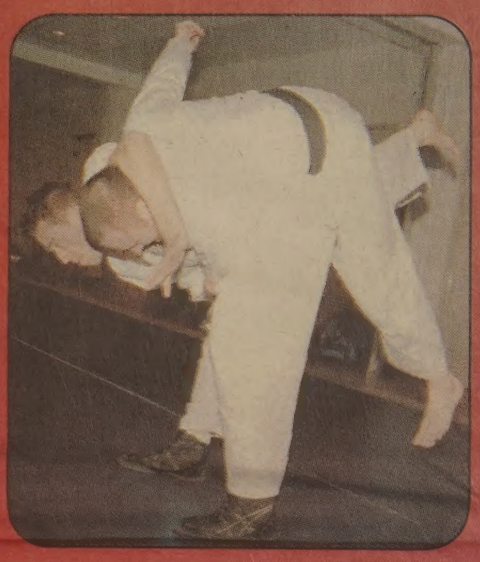
The 'Leave the Pack Behind' name for this program has been adopted, with permission, from the World Health Organization's 1999 World No Tobacco day campaign.

Created by: Catherine Leblanc & Erike Steibelt, Queen's University



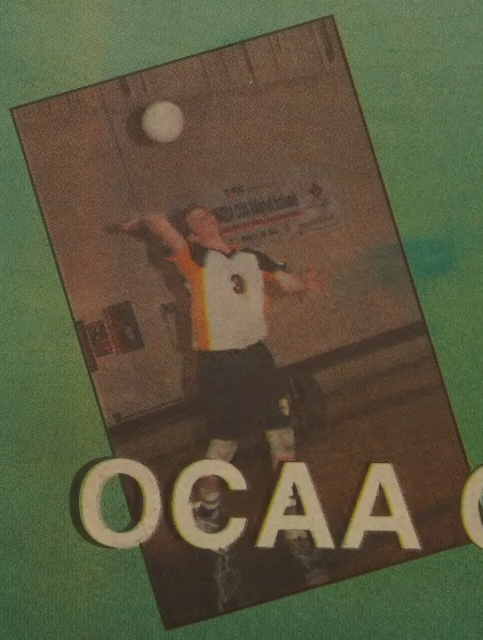
Grappling



Mike McNeil, Lyle Renaud and Tim Scott are students of the St. Catharines YMCA Jiu-Jitsu program. They are practising for an instructional video they intend to make on grappling.

Photos by Calum McNeil

Photos by Joel Herrington



OCAA CHAMPS

See story on page 1